Daily Report

East Europe

FBIS-EEU-90-061
Thursday
29 March 1990

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FBIS-EEU-90-061 *29 March 1990*

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National Assembly Session Opens, Agenda Adopted

AU2803125490 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1200 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Statement by National Assembly Chairman Stanko Todorov at opening session of the 16th Session of the Ninth National Assembly in Sofia on 28 March—live]

[Text] Esteemed National Assembly deputies, the number of deputies required is present; therefore we can start with our work.

I open the 16th Session of the Ninth National Assembly:

I propose the following agenda, which I am submitting to your attention:

1. Draft Law on Amending the Property Law.
2. Draft Law on Amendments and Addenda to the Law on Territorial Settlement.
3. Draft Law on Amendments and Addenda to the Penal Procedural Code.
4. Draft Law on Amendments and Addenda to the Civil Procedural Code.
5. Draft Law on Amending the Law on Law Courts Organization.
6. Draft Law on Amending the Pension Law.
7. Draft Law on Amending the Penal Code.
8. Draft Law on Illegal Use of Literary Works, Films, and Other Works of Art.
9. Draft Law on Amending the Law of Commitments and Agreements in Marine Navigation; the Law of Civil Aviation; the Income Tax Law; the Law on State Revenues, and the Law on Interests.
10. Draft Law on Amending the Law on Encouraging Birth Rate.
11. Draft Law on Amendments and Addenda to State Council Decree No. 155 on Economic Activiities.
12. Appeal of the National Assembly for the Voluntary Handing In of Fire Arms and Ammunition.
13. Draft Law on Amnesty.
14. List of Facts, Data, and Objects Representing State Secrets in the People's Republic of Bulgaria.
15. Government Program on Overcoming the Economic Crisis and Expanding Economic Reform.
16. Draft Law on Amendments and Addenda to the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.
17. Draft Law on Electing the National Assembly.
18. Draft Law on Political Parties.
19. Report of the Parliamentary Commission on the Ecological Situation in Dimitrovgrad.
20. Proposal on the Political and Civil Rehabilitation of Unjustly Persecuted and Repressed Individuals.
21. Resolution on the Ecological Situation in the Area of the Non-Ferrous Metal Plant Near Plovdiv.

As you see, we propose an extensive agenda. I call your attention at the fact that from the letter that was submitted to you in advance at the request of the roundtable co-chairmen, it became necessary to change the order of items on the agenda.

I would like to ask those National Assembly deputies who wish to approve the proposed agenda to vote. Are there any votes against? No, there are no abstentions, either. The agenda is adopted.

Parallel Sessions Planned

AU2803142590 Sofia BTA in English 1336 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Sofia, March 28 (BTA)—The National Assembly began today its 16th session, the agenda of which has 21 items. Most significant among them are doubtlessly the bill for the amendment and addenda of the constitution, a programme for overcoming the crisis and an economic reform. Forthcoming is discussion of a large package of bills, among which are the bills about the political parties, amendment and addenda of the Penal Procedural Code, the Civil Procedural Code and the courts' structure.

The ecological situation in some parts of the country, a topic which was discussed at the late sessions is also planned in the agenda.

The agenda includes a bill for election of a National Assembly, the discussion of which, however, is still continuing at the national roundtable. Today the roundtable sessions continue parallel with the National Assembly session. The bill about the political parties and the programme for overcoming the economic crisis were discussed in advance at the "roundtable," where consensus on major issues was reached.

Further on Assembly Session

AU2803182090 Sofia BTA in English 1650 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Sofia, March 28 (BTA)—The 16th session of the Ninth National Assembly continues. The Bills for Amendment and Adenda of the Penal and Processual Code, of the Citizens Processual [as received] Code and the Law for the Structure of Courts made changes in the structure, organization and rights of different legislative institutions on the basis of a consecutive and further development of constitutional guarantees for a right of defernce and equality of the sides in the penal process.

It envisaged: the right of the citizens for defence in all phases of the the penal process; quitting of the formerly existing practice to form quick preliminary cases; removal of the existing possibility to carry inquiries and detain citizens only on the basis of suspicion for participation in criminal actions. The whole burden related to the process and demonstration of the porsecution in criminal cases of general character is left as an exceptional right and duty of the Prosecutor's Office.

The number of legal composition is increased for heavy and extremely heavy crimes as well as of cases for which the penal code envisages a death sentence. In such cases it will be composed by three judges and four jurors.

The principle is adopted of a two-instances legal system: a regional court as a first instance and a district one as a second (district as a first and regional as a second, respectively). The citizens whose cases are considered by the Supreme Court as a first instance are guaranteed the right to appeal before a seven-member judge composition, specified by the Supreme Court chairman.

Changes are made in-depth in the consideration according to the order of supervision of legal acts which have come into effect.

The three bills got the MPs support as a right step towards humanizing the Penal Law and its bringing in compliance with international norms.

Many MPs backed the minister of interior proposal for removal of the death sentence.

The Bill for Amendment and Addenda of the Law on Pensions enables pensioners to retire at an earlier age than it has been possible. Under the presence of certain conditions and length of service 25 years for men and 20 years for women, men will be able to retire at the age of 57 (instead of 60) while women at the age of 52 (instead of 55). Until they turn the respective age they will get a 10 per cent lower pension.

This had been possible util 1967.

The law also envisages the gradual restriction of the right of pensioners to work and get pension and salary at the same time. At the end of 1989 410,000 pensioners have worked after a labour contract and received the full value of their pension. They made use of the normative acts adopted in the last few years which enabled pensioners to work and get pensions and salaries at the same time due to a lack of workforce in industry, education and health care, etc.

These changes made necessary the country's gradual transition to market economy and the expected restructuring of the economy which will inevitably bring to reduction of workplaces.

The demands for a change in the labour categorization and the refrom for an earlier retirement with restriction of the right to work and get a pension and a salary at the same time will lessen the desire for earlier retirement of people in their active age.

Changes of the official holidays in Bulgaria were voted. Christmas and Easter are restored to be official holidays. Over the last few months there were demands by thousands of people as well as by the Holy Synod and the Bulgarian Orthodox Church to restore these holidays.

The list of official holidays approved by Parliament also includes: January 1, March 3 (national holiday as from this year, the Day of Bulgaria's Liberation From Ottoman Yoke), May 1 (Labor Day), May 24 (Day of the Bulgarian Education and Culture and the Slavonic Alphabet), September 9 (Day of Freedom, Victory of the Socialist Revolution (1944).

During the discussions it was proposed to make May 2 and the second day of Christmas, December 26 days off.

It was proposed to remove as days off September 10 and November 7 (Day of the Great October Socialist Revolution).

This bill was adopted in principle at first voting.

A law was adopted for change of: the Law for Obligations and Agreements, of the Code of Trade Navigation, the Law for Civil Aviation, the Law of the Income Tax, the Law of Local Duties and Taxes, the Law for Levying of State Taxes, the Laws for Custom Houses, the Decree for Encouragement of Births.

The amendments remove burdens on the economic initiative of companies and private persons.

From the Trade Navigation Code is removed the restriction on the tonnage of ships which can be possessed by citizens, while the Civil Aviation Law drops the restriction for citizens and other persons to possess aircraft and use them. Thus, the monopoly of the Ministry of Transport on aircraft organizations is removed.

There were amendments in one of the State Council decrees for encouragement of births. The amendment removes the so-called bachelor's tax levied on family and non-family citizens who have no children. Over the last few months there were demonstrations in this country against this tax. A demand was tabled at the National Assembly for the removal of this tax and was signed by 200 people.

The National Assembly discussed a Bill for Struggle Against "Intellectual Piracy", the wrong use of works of literature, cinema and the other kinds of art.

In the last few years some private persons and social and other organizations in Bulgaria have been practicing "piracy" with films, copied on video cassettes and have shown them for money without observing the copyright requirements and without paying taxes and duties. The same has been the fate of music and books, which have illegally been copied, too. Bulgaria is obliged to bring its legislation in conformity with international conventions for copyright (the Bern and the Geneva one) of which she is a member. The "piracy" of today is unfavorable for the purchase of foreign films and Bulgaria is threatened to be deprived of such import. The issue about the unlawful competition which is being formed in the country is of equal importance.

The proposed bill does not contradict to the policy of encouragement of the economic initiative of companies and private persons but brings clarity and legal order which corresponds to the international ones.

Bulgaria is the first country in Eastern Europe in which such kind of law is being adopted.

This bill was also adopted in principle.

Assembly on Economic Activity

AU2803191890 Sofia BTA in English 1805 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Sofia, March 28 (BTA)—Today the National Assembly discussed a bill for over 30 major amendments and addenda of Decree No. 56 of the State Council for the economic activity.

The aim is to change regulations which under their present aspect have been a burden for the initiative and enterprising of private, cooperative and state companies. All companies are provided equal conditions for economic activity.

Thus, for instance, the restriction is removed allowing the limit of 10 workers and employees to work in private companies after agreement. The restriction on private companies to carry individually foreign trade activity is also removed. These companies will be obliged to sell the state part of their foreign currency incomes and in the present situation the Government will promote them by a number of alleviations in comparison to state companies.

The citizens will be able to participate in joint-stock companies and limited and unlimited companies as well as participate in foreign trade activities and associations with foreign persons.

These measures are expected to open many a new workplace. Which will facilitate the solution of social problems that are expected to arise in the forthcoming closing of a number of losing enterprises.

The amendment of the Decree on the Economic Activity categorically acknowledges the companies rights to handle their own property. The right is confirmed of state and municipal companies to sell to physical and juridical persons the major means, including factories, workshops, shops and other economic objects.

During the discussion a number of other proposals were made for removal of many inaccuracies in the decree, which initiate serious difficulties in practice. These proposals, as well as the others, tabled by the Government, are directly related with the program for overcoming the economic crisis, whose project will be discussed tomorrow.

This bill was also approved in principle.

The National Assembly adopted an address to the Bulgarian citizens to give back voluntarily the illegally possessed firearms and ammunitions.

The address is accompanied by an Amnesty Law, which guarantees that if these weapons are returned to the Ministry of Interior in a one month period, no punishment will be sought.

These two documents were done in relation with the information that there are many people who possess illegally weapons, ammunitions and explosives, which is potentially dangerous, particularly at this time of greater political activity.

The Ministry of Interior has lately removed a number of orders which permit the carrying of firearms by the citizens. The larger part of these weapons has already been collected.

The MPs approved the proposed list of facts, information and objects which are state secret for the country. It includes data related with the defense, foreign policy and internal security and some data of economic character. The new list is much shorter that the old one.

The National Assembly session will continue tomorrow by discussion of a Government program for overcoming the economic crisis.

Economic Reform Program

AU2903101090 Sofia BTA in English 0943 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Sofia, March 29 (BTA)—The National Assembly session continues today with discussions of the programme for overcoming the economic crisis and an economic reform, motioned by the government. Consultations on the programme have been carried by the major parties and sociopolitical forces in this country. It was considered at the "national round table" and in its working bodies. In its development the government consulted experts by a number of developed countries as France, the FRG, Italy, Austria, Britain, and experts from the World Bank, the EEC, GATT, the organization on economic cooperation and development.

The reasons and motives underlying in the proposed resolutions were grounded in Prime Minister Andrey Lukanov's report.

BTA on Continuation of Roundtable

AU2803191290 Sofia BTA in English 1802 GMT 28 Mar 90

["Roundtable Under Question Again"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, March 28 (BTA)—The announced open session of the national roundtable was not held today. The BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party] and SDS [Union of Democratic Forces] delegations could not reach an agreement on disputable issues about the political reform after today's consultations, either. There were certain compromises made after three and a half-hour sessions of the delegations and consultations between them, but disputable issues still remained unsolved. It is not clear when the national roundtable will continue; the delegation spokesmen did not engage themselves with prognosis for the negotiations outcomes.

The greatest contradiction in the BCP and the SDS positions remained concerning the issue on when should the future Bulgarian president be elected, as a BZNS

[Bulgarian National Agrarian Union] representative said. He said his party had a clear position but will not announce it so as not to become an obstacle in the understanding between the two sides. The BCP, the BZNS and the SDS stand in principle for the introduction of the president's institution and direct elections of a head of state. But while the SDS thinks that this should be solved by the future Great National Assembly, and until that the State Council president should have the rights of a head of state, the BCP wants the elections of a president to take place parallel with the parliamentarian ones. As a compromise the ruling party proposes that the president be elected by the present parliament and have a mandate for the next National Assembly, too.

At yesterday's session the election system issue stood out as the major disputable one. The BCP proposed a majority system with a corrective, while the SDS a proportional one. A member of the SDS delegation said today that the union has made a compromise and has adopted the proposal for a mixed system, while the BCP spokesman said that the SDS proposed a new version of election system which the other party should have to think over. The BCP agreed with the idea of the opposition for a Great National Assembly, so the elections will perhaps be of a Great (Constituent) National Assembly. It should have to work out a new Constitution, and determine alone the term of its powers. The delegations have agreed that the MPs should be 400.

The BCP spokesman said that the SDS has not made a compromise. A member of the SDS delegation said: Whether there will be a roundtable or not depends on the BCP, everything now depends on the BCP. The BZNS spokesman said that he is pessimistic.

According to the roundtable statute the Bills for the Amendment and Addenda of the Constitution and the Elections of the Political Parties (the only one on which there is an agreement so far), should be approved by the roundtable delegations, before they are presented for discussion at the National Assembly. These bills are included in the agenda of the National Assembly session which opened today.

During the discussion the date June 10 was mentioned as a possible date for the forthcoming elections, but none of the participants wished to state it officially.

The contact group of the roundtable continues its work. It is envisaged that the leaderships of the political forces presented in this group will discuss the proposals.

Protest Rally in Defense of Ivan Slavkov

AU2803142190 Sofia BTA in English 1339 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Sofia, March (BTA)—A few thousand people participated in today's rally organized by the initiative committee "The Truth About Ivan Slavkov" in relation with the detention in custody of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee chairman.

Popular Bulgarian sportsmen and sports aktivists spoke from the improvised rostrum in protection of Slavkov. His merits to the development of the Bulgarian sport and the Olympic movement in this country were stressed by the Olymlic champion in rowing Svetla Otsetova, by mountaineer Metodi Savov, by footballer Khristo Stoichkov, by writers Atanas Mandadzhiev and Vasil Tsonev, as well as others.

The participants adopted a declaration to the National Assembly and the State Council President Petur Mladenov with a copy to Juan Antonio Samaranche, in which they insist for Slavkov's impartial inquest.

New Deputy Minister; Decree on Job Regrading

AU2803132190 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 27 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Issue 25 of DURZHAVEN VESTNIK publishes the following more- important acts:

—State Council Decree No. 300 of 19 March 1990. The decree relieves Petur Dachev Balevski from the post of first deputy minister of the Committee on Prices, and appoints Evgeni Vasilev Uzunov as deputy minister and chief secretary of the Minister of Finance.
—Council of Ministers Decree No. 21 of 1990 on amendments and addenda to the Code on Grading Jobs on Retirement. The Council of Ministers adopts amendments and addenda to the Code on Grading Jobs on Retirement in accordance with the appendix, which will come into force on 30 June 1990.
—The Committee on Quality has published the following documents:

1. Regulations for revoking the regulations for the departmental metrology services issued in 1985.
2. Order No. 1 on repealing instructions.

More Positive Attitude Toward Army Urged

AU2803114190 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 21 Mar 90 p 1

[Colonel Ivan Ganchev article: "Old Bitterness With New Date"]

[Text] Old bitterness with a new date—this is how I could express in one sentence the feeling I have when occasionally I encounter various opinions about the Army. Until 10 November 1989, the newspapers, once a year, usually around 23 September [Army Day], just for the look of the thing, used to carry a single "positive" story about an officer or a soldier. Otherwise they seldom remembered the Army. Certain writers and poets, lured by the prestigious literary awards of NARODNA ARMIYA and BULGARSKI VOIN, participated in their contests with stories and verses, written mainly on the basis of "memoirs," but could not find time to look into the modern Army's life and problems. This silence was a source of bitterness.

However, after 10 November, as a result of the strong politicization of society, the old bitterness acquired a new nuance. Unfounded accusations and strange demands were addressed to the Army. Every other journalist or political figure became a deft expert of strategy, military doctrines, and military construction. I would not be surprised if one bright day some new organization makes a "living chain" and claims the building of the Ministry of National Defense.

The mass media, radio, and television deal more frequently with the fate of the single person who has been wronged or offended by the totalitarian system or by its remnants today. This is fine. However, I did not read even once about those spouses of officers who have higher education and have no work, or work as waitresses (if there is an opening), because the proper jobs are kept for "our girls," rather than for the "foreigners." Nobody bothered to look into the small regiments and see under what conditions the families of the young (and not so young) officers are living, and whether there are kindergartens, day-care centers, and schools (providing that the school is not in the neighboring city).

Has anybody been interested in the fate of those who are leaving the Armed Forces because of the cuts or the Army's depoliticization, and thus their career is cut off while they are at the peak of their forces and creative abilities? As before, this concern is "generously" left to NARODNA ARMIYA, as if the military and their families are not a part of the Bulgarian people, and as if they did not have the same problems, pain, and personal fate as everybody else.

On the other hand, however, rumors are being spread and unverified and false information and even fabrications—let us refrain from using a sharper word—are being used. Ever more frequently, the Army is written about as if it was a faceless and anonymous force with whose existence one may speculate with various goals. Reader Violeta Yaneva accuses the Army of conducting a military coup on 10 November and demands that, no less, "the military restore Todor Zhivkov to all the posts he had in the past." I do not believe that anybody saw any tanks or troops in the streets on 10 November.

In his interview for the BBC, Docent Petko Simeonov stated: "It (the Bulgarian Communist Party), simply has a powerful repressive apparatus, and it can put tanks in the streets...." Again tanks and military power, only this time invoked by the opposite side. Does it mean that Mr. Simeonov associates the Bulgarian People's Army with the repressive apparatus? What facts related to his own life allow him to do so?

Valenrin Raychev, writing in DEMOKRATSIYA, makes several proposals about the Party House in Sofia and, who knows why, pokes some ironical remarks at the Army: "One knows how jealous the military are when somebody tries to touch their dear barracks." However, the Bulgarian barracks are dear not only to the "military," but also to every Bulgarian man, as Vulchev certainly considers himself.

Precisely because of this, the Army does not deserve attacks or "barracks" humor, but the respect that it merits. It does not need anything else.

Ethics Commission Chairman on 'Moral Purging'

AU2903105890 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 26 Mar 90 p 5

[Interview with Professor Dr. Yordan Zarchev, Central Commission on Party Ethics chairman, with unidentified RABOTNICHESKO DELO reporter; place and date not given: "Simply Human Moral Standards"]

[Excerpts] [RABOTNICHESKO DELO] Why is there a Commission on Party Ethics? Why not on party discipline, for example?

[Zarchev] It is possible that the commission's name may change at a later stage, but I think that ethics are very important.

It would be incorrect to identify party ethics with some kind of superhuman virtues. The Communist is not a superman. It is not necessary to prescribe rules of moral behavior and mutual relations that he is supposed to obey. It is just required to give Communists the opportunity of acting in freedom, of acting as thinking individuals and citizens. This is important for the party itself because it plays an integrating role in society through its ideas and programmatic values, but also through the social behavior of its members.

The name of commission for party discipline, however, would be unacceptable, considering that we intend to eliminate the Stalinist type of a party based on military discipline and total subordination to the center. The Communist voluntarily joins the party and works for it, not because he is under the pressure of collective discipline and strictness, but because the party's ideas conform to his interests and convictions, to his moral standards.

[RABOTNICHESKO DELO] Is the Commission on Party Ethics the successor of the Central Control-Auditing Commission?

[Zarchev] The Central Commission on Party Ethics is a qualitatively new organ, not only according to its name, but also on account of the role assigned to it. [passage omitted]

[RABOTNICHESKO DELO] Are there any guarantees that the Commission on Party Ethics shall not become a sort of party tribunal?

[Zarchev] Once upon a time, in 1907, such an organ really existed, namely the party court. It dealt with moral problems, with mutual relations between party members, with relations between members and organizations.

However, this organ did not exist for a long time and has never again appeared in our party life.

We renounce disciplinary measures. The commissions on party ethics will no longer deal with expelling Communists. According to the new statute, the basic party organization is in charge of definitely settling all party membership questions. However, this does not prevent the central and municipal commissions on party ethics from restoring the membership of party members who have been expelled and who have submitted applications in this connection.

[RABOTNICHESKO DELO] The party is overshadowed by the burden of the totalitarian regime. What is your opinion on guilt—on collective guilt and on individual guilt?

[Zarchev] Yes, the shadow of the past is pursuing us. The economic situation is difficult, the same applies to the shortage on the market. Other negative phenomena also oppress us.

The party is overshadowed by the totalitarian regime, but it is also oppressed by the awareness of its own responsibility. The definition of guilt depends on ethics. One must be aware of his own guilt in order to overcome it. This will make us better and stronger. [passage omitted]

Collective guilt also exists, but it should not protect the anonymity of several cadres who are guilty of grave shortcomings and who have violated all moral rules of the party, all universal human human virtues. We are talking about Todor Zhivkov's entourage. This may be true, but it is not accurate because corrupted cadres existed at all levels of the party structure. The sooner such people are unmasked, the more resolutely we get rid of them, the better we will serve the party's moral health. Along with this, we should beware of slandering innocent people—at a time of "settling accounts" this danger always exists. [passage omitted]

[RABOTNICHESKO DELO] Would you describe yourself as an optimist as regards the party's moral purging, and as regards the restoration of confidence in it?

[Zarchev] The situation is really difficult today. This applies both to our society and to the party's inner life, where contradictory processes are underway. Political goodwill, wisdom, conviction, and hard work are required. People should convince themselves that we are firmly advocating the changes, that both the party and society are ready for a change. We have a manifesto, we have a new party statute, we have a package of political initiatives for the peaceful development of the democratic process, we have a comprehensive view on the peaceful transition to a democratic socialist society.

Partial data on the party referendum's progress show that the majority of Communists are accepting the idea of changing the party's name as a symbolic gesture of renewal.

Can this be called optimism?

Commentary Objects to Prosecutor's Office

AU2803115290 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 20 Mar 90 p 6

[Valeri Naydenov commentary: "Information Taboos Are Unhealthy"]

[Text] The objections of the Chief Prosecutor's Office against our pathetic efforts to inform the public suggest the existence of a rather more serious problem.

The problem is that we got used to a legalized irregularity and consider it a natural status quo.

Frightened by the escalation of critical publications in the 1976-77 period, our state organs managed to impose a very cunning decree. According to it, no one is entitled to publish any information about breaches of the law as long as the case has not been definitely resolved in a law court.

The decree was inspired by our "First" [leader, meaning Todor Zhivkov] in person. It was directed against the Chief Prosecutor's Office at that time, which innocently tried to give glasnost to some particularly outrageous cases. The author of this article himself could cite a few unpleasant experiences to which Chief Prosecutor Vachkov was subjected at that time, which are unknown to the public and prompted the issue of the aforementioned decree.

It was the taboo decree. A taboo was actually imposed on everything likely to embarrass the authorities. This also applied to some people who are working in the kitchen of Themis, the well-known goddess of justice.

Nevertheless, Themis is not a cook. Her place is in front of the public; she should not be hiding in a kitchen. In the developed countries, to which we are supposed to belong, it is the most natural thing to inform the general public on the major facts of an investigation in progress.

The fact that the public is still unfamiliar with the specific facts of the so-called "distortions" seems to perfectly suit the interests of certain people. However, it is not in the interest of our country because it contributes to polarization by fanning mutual distrust and hatred. Another issue is that some people's personal interests may also be concealed behind the reluctance to accept glasnost.

It is a question of personal interests and not of public interests.

As to specific facts published in RABOTNICHESKO DELO, all these stories have their authors and sources of information. Thus, for example, the data on Vladimir Zhivkov's expenditures stem from a financial revision of the Administration for Security and Protection itself. It

is strange that the Prosecutor's Office does not object to the sources of information, but to the publication of data as such.

We, in turn, object to the taboo imposed on the hitherto collected information. We object to the information taboo introduced at the personal instruction of the "First Leader," who seems to have been remarkably farsighted.

Problems of Citizens Returning From Turkey Noted

AU2903071590 Sofia BTA in English 1757 GMT 28 Mar 90

["For Solving the Social Problems of Those Returning From Turkey"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, March 28 (BTA)—In the presence of 33,570 vacant workplaces in this country, 15,530 Bulgarian citizens who have returned from Turkey are still not working. The main reasons for this are personal; they are looking for better jobs and settling their private problems. As far as the problems related to the candidates' requalification are concerned, the government is taking measures for their requalification according to restructuring of the economy. "There are no obstacles for providing work to those who have returned," was said at a recent Central Commission session for considering and coordinating the work of the competent bodies on social problems related to this group of people. Some relief funds are planned.

The people traveling to Turkey break some of the customs requirements. The Ministry of Finance customs department expressed concern over the cases of smuggling with Bulgarian leva, which can have a negative impact on the money conversion in this country. The sums deposited by the traveling people will be returned to them.

Those who return will be given back the money that the state collected from them for their education.

The housing problems of these people should not be solved by mutual accusations but rather by seeking of just solutions, it was stressed at a session headed by Council of Ministers Deputy Chairman Nora Ananieva. Those who have remained without dwellings will be listed, and the government will lend them financial assistance.

A unified document is expected to be tabled at the Council of Ministers that will solve the social problems of the Bulgarian citizens returning from Turkey.

Lukanov Discusses Visit to USSR

AU2803145890 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 21 Mar 90 p 1

[Interview with Council of Ministers Chairman Andrey Lukanov by Nora Stoichkova; place and date not given: "Rosy Promises for a Bright Future"]

[Text] [DEMOKRATSIYA] Can you describe some new elements in Bulgarian-Soviet cooperation likely to influence the stabilization of our country's economy?

[Lukanov] We can expect a normalization of our mutual deliveries. This will enable us to fully utilize our industrial capacities, to guarantee a better rate of employment and wages for individual collectives, and, last but not least, to provide better supplies for our domestic market.

The most controversial point discussed was the mechanism of cooperation. Our position was contradictory. On the one hand, we are striving for market mechanism, but on the other hand, when a specific case is at stake, we insist on preserving the present system of cooperation and on the convertible ruble. We agreed to adopt the payments on the basis of worldwide prices in two directions—to begin with—on the basis of clearing exchange, and later on the basis of convertible currency.

[DEMOKRATSIYA] What are your expectations related to the results of applying the new mechanism of cooperation?

[Lukanov] The transition to a market economy should play a mobilizing role in stimulating our commodity producers, who are exporters at the same time. Under the conditions of real competition, they are expected to strive for higher technical standards and for a better quality. This is a difficult process of adjustment. I must admit that we were a little spoiled by the easy conditions under which we used to sell our products in the USSR, at high prices, while the quality of our goods did not always conform with world standards.

We finally agreed to sign a treaty on cooperation in the production of "Tavriya" automobiles, which will make it possible within two to three years to increase the supplies of our domestic market by an annual amount of approximately 50,000 automobiles, the cost of which will be completely covered by exports of our engineering products.

We settled the questions of continuing our cooperation in the Komi ASSR that, to a great extent, should determine the question of preserving our forests from excessive and ecologically unjustified destruction. We agreed on the basic proportions of our cooperation within the forthcoming five-year-planning period that should guarantee the total amounts of raw materials and fuels, hitherto supplied by the Soviet Union, especially for 1990, while our side committed itself to reciprocate these supplies with appropriate deliveries. Regardless of the changes that may occur in our foreign trade relations, the Soviet market will always be important for our country.

[DEMOKRATSIYA] Will there be any paper imports from the USSR?

[Lukanov] It is known that certain difficulties related to deliveries of basic raw materials from the Soviet Union, paper included, occurred at the beginning of 1990. We

were reassured that the 1990 agreements on paper imports will be fulfilled. This does not signify that there will be no paper shortage at all, but at least a minimum supply for our printing industry should be guaranteed.

Future Commerical Relations With USSR Viewed

AU2803123290 Sofia OTCHESTVEN FRONT in Bulgarian 22 Mar 90 pp 1, 3

[Krsimir Tomov article: "Bulgarian-Soviet Economic Links: End of the Idyll"]

[Text] The Soviet deliveries of petroleum, as well as gas and heavy fuel oil, are only indirectly related to the lines at Bulgarian gasoline stations. The contractual commitments (11,629,000 tonnes of untreated petroleum for this year) are being fulfilled. Up to 18 March, 3,127,000 tonnes have been shipped to Bulgaria. The difficulties mainly lie in the refining because the quality of the petroleum being received now is not as it was previously. Petroleum of the previous quality is now not available in the Soviet Union either. The petrochemical specialists will say: We hope, however, that the difficulties are surmountable.

These and certain other figures (with the statement that we have no financial obligations to the Soviet Union, and our trade balance is a positive one) were announced on 20 March at a meeting with journalists in the House of Soviet Science and Technology in Sofia. We received a briefing from the following: Igor Ponomarev, the Soviet minister plenipotentiary in Bulgaria; Krustyu Popov, deputy minister of foreign economic relations; Soviet Trade Representative Valentin Dyakov; and officials of the Soviet Embassy and Soviet Trade Representation. In addition to the past and present state of trade relations, the discussion also covered the prospects for economic cooperation.

It is evident that, with the changes occurring in the two countries, the purely political motivation upon which our cooperation has been based to date will give way to motives that drove the ships of the ancient Phoenicians in their time. For the time being, however, the recast Marxist formula of "goods-money-goods" lacks its center link. In other words, there is no cash available, and this will hold back for some time—for one to three years—the transition to payments in convertible currency between the two countries. For the other CEMA countries, this is a reality that will be realized in the near future. In the meantime, the system of clearing payments and barter deals will be used as crutches for our normal trade in the future. It is clear that with the present structure of the Bulgarian economy it will be difficult to renounce either the immense appetite of the Soviet market or the injections of raw materials from the Soviet Union, without which it will be hard to avert paralysis. It is another question whether this market, apart from its appetite, is also showing trends toward higher demands regarding taste, especially in the field of engineering products, which make up the lion's share of our exports to the USSR. Yet another question is the problem of finding a specific trading partner, since with the removal of the state's supporting shoulder, every producer will have to seek his own customer.

All in all, it seems that the end of the idyll in economic interrelations is close at hand. The time of "trade within the family" is a thing of the past, along with the "guarantee for the future," which promotes sloth, and the exchange of gifts of undefined real value. Although it is not precisely known where our economy stands at the present—in intensive care or outside the death ward, it may be difficult to ask the patient to immediately take part in a marathon race.

However, who will give us a running start over a shorter distance?

The meeting took place the day after Premier Andrey Lukanov's visit to Moscow. Apart from the satisfaction with the visit already voiced in the press, we hope in some of our following issues to inform you in more detail about the accords reached during the visit. We were led to understand that there will also be news for the long-suffering Bulgarians who are waiting for cars. There is talk of assembling the new Zaporozhets car (the Tavriya model) in Bulgaria, as well as of participation in an enterprise to be built jointly with Fiat. Participation in the manufacture of certain assemblies and components, apart from leading to the delivery of a certain number of cars to Bulgaria, will also provide daily bread for the enterprises that until recently manufactured the so-called "special products," where things at the moment are not exactly rosy.

Foreign Minister Views European Issues

PM2903082190 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 6 Mar 90 p 8

[Interview with Foreign Minister Boyko Dimitrov by Ricardo Estarriol in Sofia; date not given]

[Excerpt] [introductory passage omitted] [Estarriol] You yourself speak of a "policy without ideological constraints," but the amendments now made to the Bulgarian Constitution do not include the removal of the term "socialist state." Is this not an ideological constraint—for instance, with respect to a nonsocialist party?

[Dimitrov] It does not outlaw parties that reject a socialist society; because, according to the amendments now accepted, what is forbidden are calls for a violent change in the constitutional order, not people promoting their stance by peaceful means.

[Estarriol] Following the changes in all the alliance countries, what would be an acceptable structure for the Warsaw Pact?

[Dimitrov] All the member countries agree on the need to abolish both military alliances simultaneously, in order to give way to a pan-European structure. For this

reason, I am convinced that this process (of simultaneous elimination of the alliances) should run parallel to the formation of a pan-European security structure, in which Bulgaria is particularly interested. The big powers' attention is focused on the reunification of Germany and on security problems in central Europe, and in a way this could lead to a weakening of the guarantees of strategic political stability in the region of southern Europe, where the Balkan subregion is located.

[Estarriol] But the pact has a historical burden, machinery, and decisions that must handicap its functioning in the new situation...

[Dimitrov] The way decisions are taken in the Warsaw Pact has changed completely. Matters are discussed and decisions are taken collectively; they are not binding on everybody, and the member countries have more and more scope to act independently. From the viewpoint of Bulgaria's security, bilateral relations with the USSR remain important, as does the bilateral treaty of mutual assistance with the USSR.

[Estarriol] In other words, it is unlikely that you would make statements like those of your Hungarian counterpart, Gyula Horn, who mentioned the possibility of Hungary's joining NATO in the future.

[Dimitrov] I believe that my Hungarian counterpart was joking. The aim is not to switch from one alliance to another but to eliminate them.

[Estarriol] President Mladenov recently confirmed in an interview that his predecessor, Zhivkov, tried to incorporate Bulgaria into the Soviet state as just another republic. How would you comment on this disclosure?

[Dimitrov] It reflects the authoritarian policy's contradictions and hypocrisy, because Zhivkov professed and encouraged nationalism at the same time as being prepared to surrender the country's sovereignty.

[Estarriol] What kind of relations between Bulgaria and the EC are realistic?

[Dimitrov] It is not realistic to consider full integration in the immediate future. An agreement between Bulgaria and the EC will soon be signed, but an association will be considered later, and then the disparities between the three concentric circles—the EC, EFTA, and the associate countries—will have to be reduced.

[Estarriol] What future do you see for cooperation among the Balkan countries, in the peninsula once described as the "powder keg of Europe"?

[Dimitrov] All the Balkan countries are very deeply absorbed in resolving our internal problems, but our common interest in developing a tourism, ecological, or telecommunications infrastructure remains valid: All this has a European dimension.

[Estarriol] How do you assess the new nationalist demonstrations in the Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, demanding the right to protect the Macedonian minority in Bulgaria?

[Dimitrov] This is interference in the internal affairs of Bulgaria, where there are conditions to enable the whole population to develop freely. There is no justification for anybody to tell us from outside how our own citizens should be treated. I will not enter into the historical processes, but I will say that the Slav population of Macedonia feels Bulgarian.

[Estarriol] But perhaps it would be possible to criticize official Bulgarian policy, which in the past recognized the Macedonian nationality's existence...

[Dimitrov] No Bulgarian official document recognizes it.

[Estarriol] You continue to refuse to recognize the Turkish population's status as a minority or nationality, and speak of the "population of Turkish ethnic origin." Is this not a terminological problem?

[Dimitrov] Terminology is a political problem. All developed countries recognize citizens' right to individual self-determination. The term "minority" presupposes discrimination or privilege.

[Estarriol] Yes, but the Helsinki Final Act, which was signed by the Bulgarian head of state, speaks of minorities.

[Dimitrov] The act speaks of "minorities wherever they exist." It is possible that they exist in other countries, but we are not talking about a neighbor...

[Estarriol] If you did not have that neighbor, you would perhaps speak of nationality...

[Dimitrov] That is why I say that it is not a terminological but a political matter.

Dobrovsky on Presence of 'Less Than 10' SS-23's

LD2803164890 Prague CTK in Enlish 1500 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Prague March 28 (CTK)—Only several SS-23 missiles—less than 10—equipped with conventional warheads and with a 400-km range are deployed on Czechoslovak territory. Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry Spokesman Lubos Dobrovsky told CTK today.

Referring to yesterday's information of U.S. State Department Press Spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler on medium-range missiles, he said that these missiles were deployed in Czechoslovakia in 1985, i.e. prior to the signing of the Soviet-U.S. agreement on the liquidation of medium- and shorter-range missiles. Moreover, they are not comparable to Pershing 1A missiles, he added.

The Czechoslovak Army has no other similar or longer-range missiles than the SS-23 ones.

Lubos Dobrovsky stated that the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry provided this information despite the fact that these missiles are Czechoslovak's property, and are not included in the above mentioned Soviet-U.S. agreement. The foreign Ministry expressed astonishment at inaccuracies in Mrs Tutwiler's sttement.

Further Reportange on Federal Assembly Session

Assembly Wants USSR Troop Treaty Invalid

LD2803191290 Prague CTK in English 1800 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Prague March 28 (CTK)—Deputies of the two houses of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly approved here today unanimously a resolution appealing to the Czechoslovak Government to declare the treaty on the temporary stay of the Soviet troops on the Czechoslovak territory of October 18, 1968, invalid since the very beginning.

The resolution also stressed that the deputies consider invalid the conclusion of the National Assembly of Czechoslovakia of the end of October 1968, voicing agreement with this treaty.

The deputies also approved an initiative for the creation of a parliamentary commission to supervise the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia and cancel the validity of some resolutions of the Czechoslovak parliament of 1969 on this issue.

Havel Assembly Speech

LD2803184990 Prague Television Service in Czech 1445 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Address by President Vaclav Havel to the Federal Assembly session in Prague—live; read by Deputy Martin Palous]

[Text] Esteemed Federal Assembly, I would like to acquaint you with the standpoint of Mr. President. He has recorded this in the hospital and we have tried to write it down. It concerns your debate about Czecho-Slovak problem. It is slightly edited to make it possible for us to read it out.

Mr. Chairman, esteemed deputies, as you know, our republic has gained huge credit in the world. Offers opened to us are immense. They are so huge we ourselves do not know how to deal with them, how to process them all. It is advantageous for our republic that we have this credit whether we deserve this credit or not. We have it, so far. There is a danger that we will lose it in a few days.

As you know, Romania, Poland, and other countries were able to agree on the new name of their state from a day to day. We, however, are not able to do this, and I will try to appeal to you in a sense that you should try to decide by a vote tomorrow morning. The best thing would be a unanimous vote on what we should do with our state's name.

First, let me take a brief look backward. As you remember, in January I put forward to the Federal Assembly the change in the name of our state, by leaving out the word socialist. There is a general agreement among deputies and the general public that this word is superfluous in the name of our state. Both nation republics, as you know, left it out of their names. I believed the Federal Assembly will do something similar and that our name will be Czechoslovak Republic and that in the next two-year period, when we have to settle many basic problems, including they way of coexistence of our nations in our united state, we will finally arrive at another name of the state, which would express the true character of our federation.

Because the Federal Assembly was unable, for reasons not quite clear to me, to immediately discuss and approve my proposals—perhaps it was also caused by the fact that it was connected with the draft new emblem of the federation which opened the way for various all-national heraldic debates and the discussion on the name of the state was thus held up—this caused something we did not immagine would happen: that is, that the problem of the relations of our nations would open up, and this would be projected into the new name of our state. This is what happened.

On the basis of a recommendation from the Federal Assembly chairman and his deputy chairmen, on the basis of the consideration that it is possible to make use of the given situation to have a definitive name for the state, that would not have to be changed two years later, I proposed a new name: that is, czecho-slovak Republic, [Republika cesko-slovenska] with a small c, small s, and a hyphen. This new name had the advantage over all previous ones; it did not contain any constitutional law, grammar or spelling errors, and satisfied both the wishes of the Slovak nation and was satisfactory to the sensible part of the Czech nation. Meanwhile, however, this

name, which appeared to express general consensus, and this was what was said to me, was once again turned into a problem. In my view it is the most logical and correct name.

You all know very well, that the hyphen, which appears ridiculous, superfluous, and ugly to all Czechs, is something more than just a hyphen. Concentrated in that hyphen are many decades and in fact centuries of the history of the Slovak nation. The Slovak nation was to a certain extent betrayed. [applause] In 1918, the czechoslovak Republic [Republika cesko-slovenska] with a hyphen came into being.

This was based on the former Pittsburgh Agreement, and in Paris the republic was constitutionally established like this. In translation into Czech, the hyphen was omitted. I would not condemn Presidents Masaryk and Benes for doing so at the time. At the Versailles Peace conference they felt they would not be able to assert the existence of a state of two nationalities. They explained long and hard that we should have an independent state, and if they had to explain, in addition, that we are two nations but we want a single state, the major powers probably would not have understood that at all. Thus, Masaryk and Benes decided they would say we are a single nation, they left out the hyphen, and that is what gave rise to the whole painful story of Czechoslovakism. Doing away with the hyphen is, for the Slovak nation, a materialized symbol of what happened: that the Slovak nation's identity was not acknowledged. In essence, they had never had an identity; they never had it recognized in a fundamental way in state law. For centuries it was a Hungarian province, and the only period of independence for that nation was the period of its pseudo-independence, that is the period of the Slovak state, which was once again an embarrassing colony of the German reich. The Slovak nation rightly wishes to carry its identity, and for reasons the Czechs perhaps do not understand, but those which they should understand.

They see the expression of their identity in the return of this removed hyphen in the name of the state. I heard the Slovak deputies unanimously accept this solution; the Czech deputies are rising up against it. Some political parties have even resolved and pledged their deputies that they cannot accept this proposal. This emerges from the traditional Czech nationalism and from not understanding the Slovak problem.

I quite understand that the majority of Czechs do not like the hyphen. It looks unnatural to them. The Czechs, however, must have to take a sort of a step to making the coexistence of our peoples in one state possible. What the Slovak Nation Council proposed originally contained many legislative, grammatical and spelling mistakes. The name I have proposed does not have these errors. Therefore, I appeal to the Czech deputies that in the interest of the preservation of our federation and in the interest of preserving some of our prestige in the world, in the interest of the coexistence of our two nations, they came to terms with this hyphen. That their action will meet with the protest of the general public is natural; it is also a part of the role of a deputy.

If this solution was really unacceptable I think there is another alternative I had already considered at the time when I wanted to remove the world socialist. That is, that our name could be Czechoslovak Federative Republic [Czech Ceskoslovenska Federativni Republika]. In this way we would not need the hyphen which irritates so much, and, at the same time, the name would express the federative substance of the state.

The word republic cannot be left out of the name of our state. We cannot be called federation of Czech Republic and Slovak Republic [czech federace ceske republicy a aslovenske republiky]. Sensible people will certainly see it is nonsense. To be a federation is a sign of a certain form of a state and not its essence. Traditionally, for 2000 years, republic has connoted a form of a state, such as a monarchy, or a constitutional monarchy, or something similar. Federation is only a sign of a state formation. We can be a federative republic, in the same as any other form of a state can be federative. To associate with this word the connection of two republics is a legislative nonsense, and I am not mentioning the enormous lack of refinement, ugliness, and unpronounceability of such a name of the state.

Therefore, I appeal to you to choose either the name Republic czecho-slovak [Republika cesko-slovenska] with small letters for the beginning of the word cesko and slovenska and the hyphen or the name Czechoslovak Federative Republic [Ceskoslovenska Federativni Republika]. In my view these are the only two acceptable alternatives of the name, which could be permanent. The name ceskoslovenska republika would probably not last too long. The problem of the relations of our two nations and of an expression reflecting the federative organization of the state would have to appear in the name of our state earlier or later. The hyphen war would not be finished but would go on for two years, and you will certainly agree that this would not be very useful regarding the fulfillment of further tasks which await us.

Therefore, I appeal to you that regardless of what your parties and your deputy clubs pledged you to carry out, choose one of the two aforementioned proposals and tomorrow morning adopt one of them unanimously. In this way you will save the dignity of our state in the world. Thank you for your attention.

Deputy on Motion for Appeal to USSR

LD2803195790 Prague Television Service in Czech 1150 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Speech by Juraj Mesik, Green Party Federal Assembly deputy for Banska Bystrica constituency, delivered at the Federal Assembly session in Prague—live, in Slovak]

[Text] Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen! I am [Juraj] Mesik of the Green Party. Allow me to say a few words. No doubt you are informed, some better informed than

others, about the situation developing in Lithuania over the past few days. In this regard we are presenting to parliament a motion that we send a letter or a telegram to the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Lithuanian parliament appealing to them to resolve the problem which has arisen solely by parliamentary means and without the use, or the threat of the use, of force. The press has reported the departure of Lithuanian deputies to the Supreme Soviet from Moscow, and their resolve to discuss the Lithuanian question on neutral soil. We therefore move that parliament consider the possibility of an offer for these talks to take place in Prague, if they take place at all.

Members of the Federal Assembly! We are mindful of the great political complexity and importance of this step being proposed. However, we are convinced that the Czechoslovak parliament, above all, should reflect without delay the moral imperative incumbent on us in this difficult time for the Lithuanian people, and that it should act on this imperative, for who else should raise his voice in defense of a small nation if not the representatives of small nations, and the representatives of nations with the historical experience we have gained? Thank you for your attention.

Minister Discusses Price Reform

LD2803132590 Prague CTK in English 1905 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Prague March 27 (CTK)—The federal price office is preparing a price reform which will be discussed by the government in the forthcoming days, Ladislav Dvorak, minister in charge of the federal price office, stressed in the Federal Assembly here today.

In the system of retail prices the government will strive for removal or decrease of allocations for products and services, for a change in the system of taxation and for gradual liberalization of prices, the minister said, adding that fares for railway and bus transport will be regulated in the first half of this year.

Prices of solid fuels are expected to be regulated in the second half in 1990. Prices for heat supplies will be solved together with a change in rents.

Retail prices of cigarettes and tobacco products will be regulated by this July and retail prices of consumer electronics are expected to decrease in the first half in 1990. On the other hand prices of less significant industrial products which are in short supply on the internal market will go up, the minister said.

The program aimed at removing price deformations has been elaborated till the year 1993. For the next year it considers a regulation of city transport fares, retail prices of a part of food products and building materials. Rents will go up in 1992. Regulations of retail prices will be completed in 1993, Minister Dvorak said.

Government To Abolish Central Planning

LD2803132190 Prague CTK in English 2033 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Prague March 27 (CTK)—"The government will discuss an extraordinarily significant material specifying concrete steps of the economic reform by mid-April at the latest," Czechoslovak Deputy Premier Vladimir Dlouhy said at the parliamentary session here today.

Referring to the year 1990 he described the situation as very problematic, imbalance has been deepening, supplier-consumer relations have been breaking down, insolvency of enterprises has been growing, he said. The government must react to all these factors. Selected investment projects in the Soviet Union will be specified in the course of April as well as reduction or suspension of some big investments. The current concept of the comprehensive state plan will be abandoned in the second half of the year, but this would require reaction of the enterprises. The state will no longer play the role of a savior and settle individual insolvencies, Vladimir Dlouhy said.

He pointed out that the state plan will be relaced by a limited range of direct regulation instruments in the second half of the year.

Dealing with the prospects for the next two years, the deputy premier underlined the government's intention to abolish central planning as such. The central planning office will further carry out only indicative planning the part of which will be evaluation of fundamental tendencies on world markets, the development of prices, raw materials and energy, democratic development, main spheres of scientific and technological progress, etc. "In a fortnight I am going to submit to the government a bill which would replace the current law on economic planning." The bill will probably enable the federal and the republic governments to implement certain direct regulation instruments already by the end of 1992.

Vladimir Dlouhy pointed to the necessity of reducing productions of certain branches of heavy industry, e.g. the output of uranium, ore metallugry, arms production, etc. On the other hand such fields like ecology, services, tourism, transport and telecommunication systems will be supported by the government, he said.

Freedom of Assembly Bill Discussed

LD2803115290 Prague CTK in English 1948 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Prague March 27 (CTK)—Czechoslovak First Deputy Premier Jan Carnogursky delivered at the joint session of the two houses of the Czechoslovak Parliament a government bill on the freedom of association and assembly and on the right to petition. Czechoslovak legal order will thus be in harmony with the country's international obligations and with the international pact on human and civil rights.

The Federal Assembly approved the bill which will come into force on May 1 this year.

Jan Carnogursky said that the bill on the freedom of assembly replaces the inconvenient legal regulation from the beginning of the fifties. Rallies of citizens should be announced to a national committee by organizers five days in advance. No approval is required, Jan Carnogursky said.

Assembly Approves Law on Citizenship

LD2803153590 Prague CTK in English 1308 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Prague March 28 (CTK)—The purpose of the law on acquiring and losing state citizenship, passed by the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly today, is to put right the wrongs done to Czechoslovak citizens who were deprived of citizenship, usually for political reasons, or lost it in another way.

Depriving a citizen of citizenship was dropped from the law and a Czechoslovak citizen will lose Czechoslovak citizenship only at his own request or theorugh other ways corresponding to international conventions.

According to the law, persons deprived of state citizenship will be enabled to get back their citizenship, if they wish so, and will be considered as never having ceased to be Czechoslovak citizens. The deadline for stating their decision expires on December 31, 1993.

Law on Publishing, Censorship Approved

LD2803140890 Prague CTK in English 1114 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Prague March 28 (CTK)—Czechoslovak citizens who have reached the age of 18 can publish periodicals. This law, approved here today by deputies of the Czechoslovak Parlament, removes all legalities that by publishing periodicals the publisher must fulfil his social obligations.

The point of the law is to remove legal obstacles interfering with the workings of the mass media and the appearance of new periodicals. The definition "the mission of periodicals and other mass media", which was misused against the free mass media, has been left out. The law also invalidates the previous 1968 law on some transitional measures. This renews the effect of the paragraph present in the respective 1966 law and its amendment in 1968 which prohibits censorship. What remains valid is the raised responsibility of chief editors.

What remains unchanged is the law pertaining to the law of the Czechoslovak Constitution that radio, television and film are national property.

Assembly Approves Joining Customs Convention

LD2803140990 Prague CTK in English 1117 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Prague March 28 (CTK)—Deputies of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly approved today Czechoslovakia's joining the international convention on simplifying and harmonising customs regimes, signed in 1973 in Kyoto, and its appendices.

The appendices deal with temporary stores of goods, customs formalities related to commercial vehicles, customs clearance of reserves and exports of goods into free circulation abroad.

The deputies made a statement on Article 13 of the convention, containing a provision on the implementation of the convention by dependent countries. The statement said that the provision of Article 13 ran counter to the declaration on granting independence to colonial territories and nations and Czechoslovakia therefore regards it as outdated." [no beginning quotation mark as received]

Approves Right To Petition

LD2803132290 Prague CTK in English 2046 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Prague March 27 (CTK)—The government bill on the right to petition was passed at a joint meeting of the House of Nations and the House of the People of the Federal Assembly here today.

It comes into force on the day of its declaration.

The bill was explained by Czechoslovak First Deputy Premier Jan Carnogursky whos said that it fills a blank space in Czechoslovakia's legal order. While drawing it the government considered the practical experience from presenting petitions. For example, 600,000 citizens signed a petition for religious rights in 1988, being the biggest one in the communist bloc. The law differs from the right to give impulses, make requests and lodge complaints individually, and sets that those who submit the petition must not be harmed.

Legal Amendments Explained

AU2803162190 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 23 Mar 90 pp 1, 2

[CTK report: "Penal Law Amendment"]

[Text] Prague—Yesterday's session of the federal government resulted in a proposal to parliament that the amendment not include capital punishment. This is the most interesting outcome of the extensive debate by the government of national understanding which dealt, besides the draft laws, with numerous important economic problems.

The Penal Law amendment is the most important of all the judicial bill. Regarding the bill, one can say that if the entire bill is to be summed up, it is based on the theses

included in the federal government's policy statement, and it respects the need for democratic order in society and for the transfer to a market economy. The draft Penal Law amendment is meant to guarantee society's protection by the Penal Law during the transition period, as it will be necessary to produce an entirely new Penal Law concept in connection with the new constitution.

The draft Penal Code amendment follows this bill. It contains changes which aim to augment citizens' rights—in particular, the right to defense—and changes implied by the obligations anchored in international agreements. The general public will be interested to know that bail is being considered; this has been set at between 10,000 and 1,000,000 korunas. A detained person will be released when bail is paid.

The third amendment in this area is an amendment on execution of a prison sentence.

The government dealt with a bill on the currency plan for 1990 and the bank currency policy for the period commencing 1 April 1990.

In light of the persevering imbalance in our economy and the rather unsatisfactory development of production to date, both the amended currency plan and the bank currency policy are, in the domestic as well as the foreign currency structure, conceived as strictly anti-inflationary, which is in accordance with the restrictive intentions of the state budget. Preconditions are thus created for preventing an oversupply of money.

During 1990, the Czechoslovak State Bank will keep development of total credits and loans—provided by the banking system for the domestic economy—within the limits of negative 2 to plus 1 percent in comparison to 1989. Limiting credit demand is in the public's interest, and therefore, the Czechoslovak State Bank will increase the discount rate from 4 to 5 percent. Actual interest rates on loans to organizations are set by individual commercial banks. An adjustment (increase) will be assessed for citizens' deposits for terms of over 12 months.

The government has prepared guidelines for a discussion with CEMA member states regarding the problems of transferring to the market principles of the world economy in the spheres of setting prices and settling accounts. The government also seconded the motion moved by a group of Federal Assembly deputies, a motion which changes and amends the Constitution and the Constitutional Law on Czechoslovak Federation in those areas concerned with property. It is based on the principle that the state provides the same protection for every owner and, thereby, it makes all owners equal.

In addition, the government decided to postpone the date of the census and the house and apartment count to 3 March 1991. The principles for rewarding employee initiative common to the federal government, trade unions, the Youth Union, and cooperative unions will be abandoned.

A report on the results of the visit made by Josef Hromadka, federal deputy premier, to Israel—among which is the proposal for a direct air link between the two countries—was approved. Preparations for an agreement with the Government of the Italian Republic on visa-free travel were approved.

The government decided to form a Czechoslovak Government Coordinating Commission to guarantee the elections to legislative bodies according to the state's line.

Party Advocates Entering Elections Independently

AU2803115690 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 21 Mar 90 p 3

["(KJ)"-signed report: "Independently Toward the Elections"]

[Text] Prague (From our own correspondent)—The 24th Czechoslovak Social Democracy Congress will take place in Prague on 24 and 25 March. After reaching an agreement with its territorial organization in Slovakia, the party will continue to function as a single Czechoslovak Social Democracy and will operate throughout the country.

The congress will decide whether the party will enter the elections independently or as part of the Civic Forum. Engineer Slavomir Klaban, the party's chairman, and Dr. Jiri Marek, head of its press section, spoke about this issue at Tuesday's [20 March] news conference and stated that a proposal will be submitted at the congress advocating the Czechoslovak Social Democracy's independent entry into the June elections because the five percent participation offered to them by the Civic Forum is unacceptable. At the same time, they rejected the recent claim made by Petr Kucera that the party is divided and is incapable of uniting itself.

The representatives of Czechoslovak Social Democracy declared that they are deliberately not introducing the word socialism into their program as this concept was discredited in the past. However, they expressed their conviction that its renaissance will take place under the new conditions.

Czechoslovak Social Democracy had 365,000 members in 1948. Today its membership base is in excess of 10,000; there are more than 2,500 members in Prague, and it encompasses a broad social spectrum.

As the party has just reclaimed Prague's People's House [Lidovy Dum], it has also resolved to regain part of its original property.

Slovak Communists Urge Left-Wing Parties' Unity

AU2803121690 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 21 Mar 90 p 2

["PA"-signed report: "Support For Left-Wing Alternative"]

[Text] Bratislava—The Communist Party of Slovakia [CPSL] Central Committee Executive Committee was in session yesterday [20 March] and issued the following declaration:

The creation of new political parties and movements, by means of which citizens can assert their political interests and needs and effectively influence decisions and solutions regarding state and social affairs, is an expression of the transition from a one-party power monopoly toward a multiparty political system. The CPSL Central Committee Executive Committee welcomes the establishment of new political parties and movements which want to propagate and assert the ideas of social justice and humanity, which want to fight for the preservation of citizens' social achievements and guarantees, and ensure the prosperity of our society. By this, they contribute to the creation of conditions for the cooperation of all the left-wing parties and movements in the future. The CPSL Central Committee Executive Committee followed with particular interest the efforts to create the Social Democratic Movement of Slovakia.

We are convinced that the current divergencies and differences in the opinions among left-wing parties, inherited from the past, will be gradually eliminated in order to form a left-wing alternative for social development. The identity of program objectives of several left-wing parties provides a historical opportunity, for which not only the left-wing but the entire society would have to pay if wasted.

Slovak National Front Dissolved

AU2803135590 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 22 Mar 90 pp 1,2

["(AO)"-signed report: "Merely Altering the Organization's Name Is Not the Issue"]

[Excerpt] Bratislava—An extraordinary—and, in effect, the last—session of the Slovak Republic National Front Central Committee Presidium was held yesterday; the session was chaired by Anton Tazky, the Slovak National Front's chairman. After several suggestions were made, in particular by representatives of the Freedom Party, those present adopted draft principles for the activity of the Association of Political Parties and Social Organizations in the Slovak Republic [Zdruzenia politickych stran a spolocenskych organizacii Slovenskej republiky], an association which has become the legal successor to the Slovak Republic National Front Central Committee.

As was emphasized in the discussion, in no way does this involve merely altering the organization's name. The association is an open platform for political parties, for social, cooperative, and special interest organizations, and for civic initiatives and movements united in the common interest of building a humane and just society. Its activity will be developed on the principles of voluntariness, equality, collectivism, openness, independence, and on the principle of delegation. The association's most supreme organ—the conference (to be held every five years)—will probably be convened after June's parliamentary elections. [passage omitted on tasks of the central committee]

Slovak Government Session on Capital Punishment

AU2803141590 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 22 Mar 90 p 1

[Dusan Petrak report: "Slovak Republic Government Session"]

[Excerpts] Bratislava—The Slovak Republic Government session again appeared to be a marathon yesterday. As mentioned, following concluding remarks provided by Slovak Government spokesman Jan Comaj, the government discussed over 20 different legislative changes to laws.

Changes in criminal legislation definitely are among the ones most eagerly awaited by the public. Ladislav Kosta, Slovak minister of justice, informed journalists of these changes. [passage omitted]

Capital punishment is the single most important item in the amendment of the criminal code. [passage omitted] A recent survey of public opinion states that 65-70 percent of the respondents are for preservation of the death penalty, while only 20 percent were against it. In this context Jan Comaj noted that despite the stand of Milan Cic, the Slovak premier, who wanted to abolish capital punishment, the government recommended an amendment including this extreme punishment. True, of the 38 crimes punishable by this irrevocable penalty, only three remain—murder, terrorism, and genocide. However, further changes of principle in criminal legislation, including the abolition of capital punishment, are expected to take place after the adoption of a new constitution. [passage omitted]

Opinion Poll on Trust in Politicians, Institutions

AU2803140290 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 21 Mar 90 p 3

[CTK report: "Whom Do Citizens Trust?"]

[Text] Do you trust those who control our society? This is one of the questions asked by the Institute for Public Opinion Research in the last week of February of 1,325 citizens from throughout the republic who are older than 15 and who constitute a representative sample.

It followed from the answers that the majority, i.e., 88 percent, trust Vaclav Havel, president of the republic. Nine percent of the respondents do not trust him. The federal government is trusted by 83 percent of the citizens, and 11 percent of the respondents do not trust it. National governments are trusted by 79 percent of people and distrusted by 13 percent. The Federal Assembly is trusted by 76 percent of the respondents, and 19 percent have a contrary opinion. Distrust prevailed in the assessment of National Committees. A total of 58 percent of the respondents distrust them, whereas only 31 percent trust them. The remaining respondents did not know, for the time being, whether to trust the president, governments, and other bodies.

The survey also asked whether people trust the institutions which can, at the present time, influence life in our republic. From the results it is clear that, above all, the people trust the communications media (approximately three quarters of the respondents), the church, and the Army. On the other hand, the National Security Corps, courts, and trade unions were distrusted more frequently. The National Security Corps is trusted by 35 percent, the courts by 34 percent, and the trade unions by 28 percent of the respondents.

Survey Shows Displeasure With Management Changes

AU2803140590 Prague PRACE in Czech 22 Mar 90 p 1

["s!"-signed report: "Dissatisfaction With Bosses"]

[Text] The Institute of Public Opinion Research this year polled the public on the changes in the management of enterprises, organizations, and institutions twice already. In the January survey, 40 percent declared that changes in the management personnel at their workplace did occur, while 57 percent reported no changes. In February, changes were reported by 56 percent of the respondents, and the workplaces of 40 percent experienced no changes in management. The remaining three and four percent, respectively, were unaware of any changes.

Only one-quarter of the polled people considers the personnel changes in enterprises, organizations, and institutions to be sufficient. It seems, however, that the changes do not bring to the workplace an overwhelming satisfaction. Only 30 percent of questioned employees of the facilities with new management (both in January and in February) considered the new personnel to be superior to their predecessors. But 58 percent of those polled in January and 50 percent of them in February refused to assess the new management for the time being. This implies that "tolerance" for the management is apparently diminishing.

SED Plans for Concentration Camps Reported

AU2903113890 Hamburg BILD in German 29 Mar 90 pp 1,3

[Staphanie Wagner report: "SED Planned Concentration Camps for Social Democrats, Greens, and Christians"]

[Text] When will the swamp of the Stasi state security system finally be drained? Like the Nazis at the time, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] wanted to put political opponents in concentration camps. The Stasi was ordered to draft plans for internment camps, and they were actually partly built. The construction of one has been completed: the "Red Young Front" in Tambach-Dietharz for 1,000 prisoners. "We have now found documents. The camps were planned for members of the Social Democratic Party, Greens, and Christians," Matthias Buechner from the Erfurt investigation committee stated. Did Prime Minister Modrow, who is still in office, want to prevent the publication of these shocking facts? He ordered the committee to stop its work.

Matthias Buechner and the other members of the "Independent Investigation Committee" worked unimpeded at the Stasi headquarters in Erfurt until last Friday [23 March]. They leafed through every single Stasi file and read them, despite the fact that the Council of Ministers—including Modrow—had forbidden them to do this. Now a general ban on the committee's work has come from Berlin. "We do not understand that. The public must be told everything," Buechner stressed.

Members of the investigation committee told journalists that written documents for the construction of the camps were partly drafted in February 1987. However, there are also documents and files that were drafted last year, the year when the changes were initiated. "For Erfurt Bezirk alone we found plans for 13 camps," Buechner stated. There were plans to equip them with barbed wire and with electric fences, as was the case in Auschwitz. Sites were also prepared for barracks to be established. There were even photographs of such facilities.

According to the plans, a children's holiday camp near Crawinkel, a settlement of bungalows on Hohenfelden lake, the citadel on Erfurt's Petersberg hill, and a youth hostel were to be converted into concentration camps.

The SED wanted to separate foreigners from political opponents. Internment camps, that is concentration camps, were intended for political opponents, and isolation camps, apparently a "milder" version, for foreigners.

Did Prime Minister Modrow (Party of Democratic Socialism/SED) want to suppress further information? Buechner and his friends also found index cards of Stasi agents.

They discovered names that were to be seen on numerous election campaign posters. "The number of Stasi agents is incredibly high," Buechner stressed. "We have the names of all of them, and we informed Mr. Modrow last week about this. However, he had nothing more urgent to do than have the general prosecuting attorney declare the unconstitutionality of the publication of these files."

Sven Braune, Klaus Voigt, and Dirk Adams started a hunger strike at the Stasi headquarters yesterday [28 March] to protest against this. "We will continue our strike until the public finally realizes what is going on here," Braune stated.

Eppelmann Advocates Need for 'Grand Coalition'

AU2803115390 East Berlin NEUE ZEIT in German 21 Mar 90 p 1

[Interview with Rainer Eppelmann, acting chairman of the Democratic Awakening and minister without portfolio, by unidentified ADN correspondent on 20 March; place not given: "Minister Eppelmann: Grand Coalition Necessary"]

[Text] [ADN] In light of the refusal of the Social Democratic Party of Germany [SPD] to enter into a coalition with the German Social Union (DSU), how does the chairman of the Democratic Awakening assess the chances for a broad government alliance, for which the Alliance for Germany is striving?

[Eppelmann] Fortunately, the SPD at least did not completely shut the door by showing its readiness to hold informative talks with all parties. I interpret this as its readiness also to hold informative talks with the Alliance, but apparently it currently shrinks from characterizing these talks as coalition talks. One will have to listen closely to find out what induced the SPD to make such a quick statement. If I understood statements made by Chairman Ibrahim Boehme in the last days before the elections correctly, he would also have been able to envisage a coalition with the Alliance after the very clear statement by Lothar de Maiziere that the Alliance remains together. One will have to ask why he changed his mind. Maybe it will also turn out that the wish of the Bonn barracks was stronger. At any rate, several reasons why the SPD in Bonn is of the opinion that it would be better for the GDR SPD to be in the opposition and not in the coalition if it is not able to head this coalition, would occur to me. This is what has changed, compared to the time before the elections. But I still hope that we will succeed in forming a grand coalition of—I deliberately repeat this—national responsiblity, because this is the point. And we also think that the future processes in the GDR will be more complicated if we have a strong government, but also a very strong opposition, and it will probably not always be possible to keep the quarrels of the parties out of the considerations. In my opinion, we should continue to strive for such a grand coalition—this would be more than 70 percent.

[ADN] Despite the desired joint parliamentary group of the Alliance parties, can you envisage a separation from the DSU, in order to create a coalition with a majority to change the Constitution?

[Eppelmann] At present, I cannot imagine this at all, this was repeatedly stated by all parts of the Alliance. I believe that we cannot give in to the SPD's pressure on this point. The decisive point—this is why I am a little sad—is: We should at least have started to discuss contents. If the SPD had ascertained afterward that in this talk on contents the DSU takes positions that cannot be supported by us, this would have to be accepted.

[ADN] Mr Minister Eppelmann, in what responsible function could you envisage participating in a future government?

[Eppelmann] I proceed on the assumption that the Democratic Awakening will also be called in to accept responsibility in the government of the Alliance. At present, personnel decisions cannot be discussed because they have not been made. As things look at present, there will be a first coalition talk on late Thursday [22 March] afternoon. If the SPD sticks to its refusal, these talks will certainly be shorter and, in all probability, less complicated than if it participates. The last television appearances before the elections also confirmed that there is far-reaching agreement on contents between the Alliance and the League of Free Democrats.

Dresden Mayor Berghofer To Run for Liberals

AU2903095290 Hamburg BILD in German 29 Mar 90 p 1

["bri" report: "Berghofer To Run For Liberals"]

[Text] Dresden Mayor Wolfgang Berghofer, who is not affiliated with any party at the moment, wants to run as an "independent candidate" on the ticket of the "League of Free Democrats—the Liberals" (former Liberal Democratic Party of Germany) in the 6 May local elections. BILD received this information from reliable circles of Liberals in East Berlin. "He has more or less promised to run for us," the sources stated. "There have been and still are very detailed talks between Chairman Ortlieb and Mr. Berghofer," a prominent member of the party stressed.

Alliance Not Thinking of Postponing May Election

LD2803104290 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1003 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Berlin (ADN)—A postponement of the local GDR elections planned for 6 May is not being considered by the Alliance for Germany, Chairman of Democratic Awakening Rainer Epplemann told ADN today in response to inquiries. "It does not seem likely to me that there could be such a postponement," he said. The question was discussed some time ago, but is no longer being considered, he said. It can, however, in no way be seen as linked with the creation of Lander structures, since there are still many complicated questions to be resolved on that issue, Eppelmann said. [passage omitted]

Thuringian SPD Chairman Resigns

AU2803123590 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 22 Mar 90 p 2

[ADN report: "Thuringian SPD Chairman Resigned"]

[Text] Erfurt (ADN)—Wilfried Machalett, chairman of the Thuringian Association of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, resigned from his office and also will not take over his seat in the People's Chamber. The reasons for this are of an exclusively personal nature, he told the THUERINGER ALLGEMEINE. His party has nothing to do with it, he stated to the paper published in Erfurt.

Machalett added, however, that he does not want to accept the disputes and infighting for power and influence which he experienced in his own party and with other parties in the past few days and weeks. Another reason for his step is "that a major part of the ideas with which I became politically active in the fall of 1989—before the change—has gone down the drain. The dictatorship of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany has been replaced by the dictatorship of money," Machalett stated.

SPD Outlines Conditions for Joining Coalition

AU2803133190 Hamburg BILD in German 28 Mar 90 p 4

[Peter Brinkmann report: "Ten Conditions of the GDR Social Democratic Party of Germany For Coalition"]

[Text] The Social Democratic Party of Germany [SPD] is ready now to hold talks with the Christian Democratic Union [CDU] on a grand coalition. It has dropped its main condition of taking part in the government only if the German Social Union [DSU] does not form part of the cabinet. Richard Schroeder of the SPD parliamentary group presidium: "Our course is determined by the problems we are dealing with. The problem of the DSU is not the most important one."

The SPD's program is as follows:
—Recognizing the Oder-Neisse border;
—Not extending NATO to the territory of the GDR;
—Coordinating all steps toward German unity with the neighbors;
—Protecting the GDR citizens' property rights;
—Transforming people's property into private property;
—Creating provisions on tenants' protection, unemployment insurance, retraining programs, adjustment of old-age pensions;
—Continuing day-care centers for children and school meals;
—Abolishing the impenetrable bureaucracy of the Socialist Unity Party [SED] without delay;

—Registering the property of the SED/PDS [Party of Democratic Socialism] and transferring the party's property outside the GDR as well as all its foreign exchange holdings into the ownership of the state;
—Adopting a law on co-determination and a works' constitution act as bases for the democratization of enterprises.

NDPD Merges With League of Free Democrats

LD2803134690 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1209 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—The NDPD [National Democratic Party] today joined the League of Free Democrats—the Liberals (formerly LDP)—through cooperative accession. The decision, made earlier by the NDPD party executive, was announced at a news conference in Berlin. With this decision, the National Democrats hope to advance the forces of the center and to serve the amalgamation of all liberal forces in the country, NDPD press spokesman Dr. Lothar Mueller said.

Thus the NDPD has ceased to exist as an autonomous party in the GDR.

Central German National Democratic Party Founded

AU2803123790 East Berlin DER MORGEN in German 26 Mar 90 p 1

[Olaf Opitz report: "Extreme-Right Party Founded"]

[Text] Leipzig—A new party was established on the extreme-right margin of the GDR's political landscape in Leipzig over the weekend [24-25 March]. In the next few days, the Central German National Democrats [Mitteldeutsche Nationaldemokraten, MND] want to be registered as a conservative-nationalist party in the next few days. Finally only 55 of the approximately 150 participants in the party's founding congress, which was held behind closed doors, were registered as members.

At present, the party is a small, rightist fringe group which, however, wants to be active on a kreis level around the German nationalist spectrum of the National Democratic Party of Germany [NDPD]. The MND adopted its program and statutes, elected an executive board with six members headed by 49-year-old orthopedist Dr. Rainer Prigge from Barleben. The MND is financially and materially supported by the FRG National Democratic Party. In the municipal elections the party wants to run with its own candidates in the Leipzig region.

In its program, the party skilfully presents itself as democratic, but German-nationalist. The MND is against the "abuse of the German people by the victorous powers." Therefore, it calls for the withdrawal of all foreign troops and for a nonaligned, neutral Germany with the 1990 borders—a Germany which, however, is not to be swallowed in a pan-European unification process.

This is also underlined by the rightist-conservative views on the restriction of the too "generous" asylum-law in the FRG Basic Law, if this article were to be taken over in the German unification process. In the future the MND also wants to put an end to the "devastating influence of foreign cultures and the increasing infiltration with foreign elements."

Liberals' Joint Delegate Conference Collapses

LD2703181690 Hamburg DPA in German 1131 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Excerpts] East Berlin (DPA)—The joint delegate conference of liberal GDR parties, amalgamated in the League of Free Democrats, collapsed today in East Berlin. The whole of the FDP [Free Democratic Party] did not turn up for the conference. Disagreement with the LDP [Liberal Democratic Party] had cropped up after the party grassroots had voted against a joint "Free Democratic Party—the Liberals" on the premise of the party and statute of the LDP. [passage omitted]

However, the common parliamentary group of the liberal GDR parties LDP, FDP, and German Forum Party (DFP), the League of the Liberals, would continue to exist, FDP press spokesman Olaf Irmscher confirmed. [passage omitted]

Choice of Pieroth as Economics Minister Criticized

AU2803131890 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 21 Mar 90 p 2

[Joerg Staude commentary: "Farsighted"]

[Text] After the statements of political intentions before the elections, real economic questions now come to the fore again. Competence is in demand; and whoever does not have it, borrows it. If one accepts the slogans and the money of the West German Christian Democratic Union [CDU], why not its people also, such as Elmar Pieroth, who is to become the GDR's new economics minister? He contributes not only money, but also a concept.

Pieroth announced that he will, above all, make sure that medium-sized enterprises can start work in order to "avoid an all too strong increase in unemployment and to quickly create an additional four million jobs in the GDR" over the next months. This alone sounds good, but Pieroth easily throws in even more: The combines have to be broken up, the trade union law has to be changed, and social property is to be kept as small as possible, because this is a "model that regresses into a planned economy." FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU assumes that one "can hardly expect" from Pieroth a dense social net to alleviate the coming vicissitudes.

In every other respect, one should brace oneself for quite a lot. The political entrepreneur is co-owner and former chairman of the board of directors of a winery in Rhineland-Palatinate. Five years ago this winery was

involved in the antifreeze scandal—one of the biggest cases of wine adulteration. Even though Pieroth denies having been involved in this, the Hamburg magazine DER SPIEGEL reports that hints are accumulating just now that the investigation of the wine scandal was purposefully influenced by politicians. The name Pieroth was supposed to be left out. Someone must have been very farsighted....

Momper Offers Support to GDR Government

AU2603183190 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 23 Mar 90 p 1

[AND report: "Momper: Not Negleting the GDR"]

[Text] Berlin (West)—Walter Momper, governing mayor of Berlin (West), offered his support and cooperation to the new GDR Government. Momper said in a government statement on Thursday [22 March] that the new GDR Government will be an important partner for the city.

The Federal Government created great expectations in the GDR. Now these expectations have to be fulfilled. During the introduction of the currency and economic union there will be the danger of social ruptures. However, "nobody in the GDR must be neglected in the social sector." Not only the conversion of the savings accounts at the rate of one to one, but also long-term rent controls are necessary social safeguards, he stated.

Interflug President on Planned Links With JAL

OW2903042190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0339 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Berlin, March 29 KYODO—A joint venture with Japan Airlines Co. (JAL) is included in the basic business plans of East Germany's state-run airline Interflug following unification of the two Germanys, according to Interflug's chief executive.

Klaus Henkes, president of Interflug, also said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE on Wednesday that the agreed capital investment of 26 percent in the East German carrier by West Germany's Lufthansa German Airlines was not intended as the beginning of a merger of takeover of Interflug in the future.

The possible venture with JAL will include operation of a hotel, Henkes said. JAL has a variety of business capacity, including tourism and leisure, and Interflug hopes to cooperate in a wide range of business, he said.

The two companies are also considering mutual service to each other's country and cooperation in technology, he sa.

Detailed negotiations by specialists from both companies will finish by the middle of this year, he said, adding that he also hopes agreement on the opening of a Tokyo-Berlin route will be reached this year.

Referring to the planned German unification, Henkes said Interflug wishes to coexist with Lufthansa for cooperative growth.

Whether Interflug will be privatized or not is not clear, but the company will surely obtain independence in management, he said.

Interflug has maintained regular flights to such places as Albania and Mozambique, ignoring profitability due to government orders. But those routes may be abolished in the near future, Henkes suggested.

Halle Newspaper FREIHEIT Changes Name

AU2303153590 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 19 Mar 90 p 3

[ADN report: "No FREIHEIT Anymore"]

[Text] Halle—The name FREIHEIT [FREEDOM] has disappeared from the media scenery of Halle Bezirk. Since Saturday [17 March] the independent daily for Saxony-Anhalt has been published under the name of MITTELDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG [CENTRAL GERMAN NEWSPAPER], with new contents and a different look.

Electoral Committee Investigates Complaints

LD2803140390 Budapest MTI in English 1110 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Budapest, March 28 (MTI)—The ratio of ballots counted in both the capital and in the countryside may change, according to the interpretation of Budapest electoral committee. A related decision was reached late Tuesday evening.

Professor Sandor Berenyi, committee president, told MTI on Wednesday morning that a number of electoral wards have filed complaints from citizens against the decisions of local election committees.

Following investigation of the complaints, the committee took a position regarding the counting of some invalid ballots cast in certain wards in the capital. As a result, a number of votes marked invalid were declared valid by the committee.

The wards concerned are the following: in the 29th (district 13), there were 8 valid ballots from the 39 marked invalid, in the 23rd (district 3), 11 valid ballots from the 28 declared invalid, and in the 58th (district 11), 15 ballots were valid from the 35 declared invalid.

According to Mr Berenyi, among the invalid ballots inspected by the committee were a number of voting slips for the party list on which the constituents had failed to put the required plus sign (+), but instead underlined the candidate's name or put a diagonal line. From among the invalid ballots in the three wards, the committee declared over forty per cent to be valid.

As reported earlier, there were over 30,000 invalid ballots in the ballot boxes of the capital, and it could well happen that after detailed inspection, about half of these ballots will be found to be valid.

If this is the case and a nationwide inspection is also called for, the result could be decisive to the fate of some parties which failed to achieve the four per cent required to get into parliament.

Various Parties Comment on Elections, Future Plans

SZDSZ News Conference

LD2803165490 Budapest MTI in English 1146 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Budapest, March 28 (MTI)—Whether Hungary will have a Christian National or Social-Liberal government remains to be seen after the second round of the elections, Janos Kis, acting president of the Alliance of Free Democrats (AFD) [SZDSZ], told the press in Budapest on Wednesday.

What the first round decided was which parties and political forces cannot form a parliamentary party faction, and that what role the Hungarian Socialist Party would play in the new parliament, Janos Kis said [sentence as received].

The only way to overcome the current economic crisis facing Hungary is to eliminate the predominance of central planning which is a barrier to efficient production and enterprise.

The AFD is the sole organization pledging to help private property gain the upper hand over state property within a relatively short time, during its next parliamentary tenure.

The AFD is prepared to face the tensions that go hand in hand with economic stabilization, assuming that the population is also aware of the present economic plight and the price of recovery.

The AFD supports the formation of strong and independent trade unions so that the measure of the burden to be born by the various social strata be really decided though negotiations, Janos Kis said.

In connection with the fact that the AFD invited for a televised debate its rival, the Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF), executive Ivan Peto said for the time being the HDF had made no response to their proposal that senior personalities from the two parties discuss on television the differences between their political and economic programmes.

MSZP Reaffirms Image

LD2803173790 Budapest MTI in English 1530 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Budapest, March 28 (MTI)—According to its national presidium, the Hungarian Socialist Party (HSP) [MSZP] may become a political force to be reckoned with in parliament and society as a whole, HSP spokesman Viktor Polgar told the press on Wednesday.

The presidium established that the HSP candidates had stood their ground in the first round. Fifty six candidates qualified for the run-off, and 12 to 15 of them have a realistic chance of winning a mandate. The party does not want to change its image for the second round, the spokesman said.

Mr Polgar announced that the HSP would support none of the parties. The presidium leaves it to the discretion of the local party organizations whether or not they support anyone in the individual constituencies.

MDF Claims Success

LD2803173990 Budapest MTI in English 1513 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Budapest, March 28 (MTI)—During the Wednesday press conference of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, the speech of party President Jozsef Antall

was frequently interrupted by the ovation of party followers, and there were hisses when the rival was mentioned.

Istvan Balsai, electoral expert of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, described it as a great success that HDF [MDF] candidates won about 40 of the 120 places filled on regional lists, which is a third and 20 per cent more than those of the Alliance of Free Democrats. The party also finished first in most counties and Budapest.

Antall complained that several statements and commentaries containing biased criticism of the HDF had appeared in Hungarian newspapers. He spoke disapprovingly of the election ethics of the rivals, mainly the alliance of Free Democrats.

Concerning a possible coalition, the party president said they agree with the AFD insofar as the two rival parties must not form a coalition. On the other hand, cooperation is conceivable with other parties, primarily the Independent Smallholders' Party.

Parties Preliminary Figures for Election Costs

LD2803163190 Budapest MTI in English 0943 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Budapest, March 28, 1990 (MTI-ECONEWS)—After only the first round, Hungarian parties have spent sums believed to be in the order of hundreds of millions of forints on their election campaigns.

The first round leader, the Hungarian Democratic Forum (MDF), had originally estimated that the 15 million forints (250,000 USD) it received in state subsidies would be enough for its campaign but now maintain that even the extra 25 million they have received from membership fees and business ventures plus the 40,000 USD the US Republican Party has donated is not going to be enough. At the same time the MDF is reluctant to disclose the final cost of the campaign before April.

The Alliance of Free Democrats, 3 per cent behind as things stand, have also promised exact figures in April. They say they have spent about 30 million forints so far, mainly from donations by individuals and businesses. The West German Free Democrats have also had 100,000 posters printed for them free of charge, and have donated cash.

The third-placed Independent Smallholders' Party say they have spent between 15-20 million forints, mainly from state funds, but declined to give details, while the Hungarian Socialist Party, who are fourth, have spent their state allocation of 15 million forints plus 25,000 forints per candidate and, they say, have neither sought nor received any foreign support.

The Federation of Young Democrats (FIDESZ), in 5th place, received 14 million forints from the state budget and maintain that they have only received 1,500 USD from abroad, and have run up something of a debt.

Next in the poll come the Christian Democratic People's Party, who announced that they received 7 million forints in state funding and 6 million of foreign support. The Italian fraternal party financed the printing of half of their 3 million election leaflets while the Austrian People's Party contributed 200,000 posters. The CDU gave them a car, while Swedish, Austrian and West German donations ensured the supply of loudspeakers.

The 20 million forints spent by the Agrarian Association, the 6 million each of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party and the Entrepreneurs' Party, the 8 million of the Hungarian People's Party and the 15 million of the Patriotic Electoral Coalition seem now to be wasted, as they failed to secure the minimum 4 per cent of votes required to win a seat in parliament.

However the biggest loser is the Hungarian Social Democratic Party, which received 10 million forints budget support and borrowed 17 million forints to finance the campaign. They deny having received any foreign support, but admit unsuccessfully seeking 3 million dollars. The party also admits that their advertisements were financed from other sources which they declined to name, but it is rumoured that Socialist International donated 4 million dollars.

Official on TV, Radio Time for Election Campaign

LD2803201990 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1630 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] The committee supervising Hungarian television and radio today issued a statement regarding the publicity the parties have or will receive in the mass media until 8 April. Julia Torday spoke to the secretary of the curatorium, Gyorgy Szilvasi.

[Begin recording] [Szilvasi] There will continue to be program time set aside for the parties on television and radio. Next week there will be an opportunity for a debate by the parties which attained four percent on a maximum of five occasions. The parties will continue to have paid advertising time at their disposal. The supervisory committee continues to see its fundamental task as ensuring impartiality and equality of opportunity; apart from this, the complete briefing of citizens—voting citizens on the questions which concern the second round.

Here it is a new fundamental principle compared to previously, that obviously in the first place those parties which attained four percent will feature in the various news and reports and edited programs; however, those parties which did not attain four percent but put forward candidates at the elections must not be excluded either. They must be able to inform the voting citizens what kind of voting behavior they call on from those who previously voted for them but cannot vote for them now. Finally, equality of changes must also be ensured in a way, that if in an edited program the candidate from

some electoral district is featured, then the same opportunity to speak must be ensured for the other candidates too.

[Torday] How much allocated and nonallocated program time will the parties get?

[Szilvasi] The program time which can be allocted will amount to those debate programs which will be put before the viewers and radio listeners next week—a maximum of five hours in all. All the political programs, news programs, Newsreel, Evening Chronicle, are all nonallocated programs. [end recording]

National Bank President on Inflation

LD2803174790 Budapest MTI in English 1420 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Budapest, March 28, 1990 (MTI-ECONEWS)—In January, Hungarian consumer price inflation reached 21 per cent at an annual rate but the projected 19 per cent can still be kept on the whole of the year. Ferenc Bartha, president of the National Bank of Hungary, said at a press conference today.

Mr Bartha said that the high inflation figure was not so much the product of the market mechanisms than of inflationary expectations and pre-election suspense.

Mr Bartha said that Hungary's convertible current account improved by 300 million USD in the first quarter of 1990, as compared to the same period of last year, but still remained $27 million in the red.

He called it a promising sign that hard currency exports rose by 18 per cent in the first three months, as compared to January-March of 1989.

The NBH president says the new bill on the central bank will probably come before parliament in September or October.

The bill is to put the NBH under parliamentary control, with the president of the NBH also to be elected by parliament. This is seen as the ultimate guarantee for the National Bank of Hungary to do everything in its power to defend the Hungarian currency and also to be saved the trouble of having to finance budget overspending, Mr Bartha said.

Overview of Parties' Economic Programs

LD2803162890 Budapest MTI in English 1410 GMT 28 Mar 90

["Economic Programmes of Parties with Seats in new Parliament"—MTI headline]

[Text] Budapest, March 27, 1990 (MTI-ECONEWS)—

1. Hungarian Democratic Forum

The Hungarian Democratic Forum (MDF), an organisation founded in September 1988 by a group of opposition politicians and writers, has finished top in the first round of the Hungarian parliamentary elections on March 25, securing 24.71 per cent of the votes cast for the parties' electoral lists. Its individual candidates were also well placed, leading after the first count in many constituencies.

The MDF wants to see what it calls a social market economy in Hungary. They oppose unlimited economic liberalism and want to see a strong lower and upper middle class and an extension of ownership to as many people as possible, including the holding by employes of shares in their companies.

The party believes it is vital to raise technical and management standards in Hungary by encouraging foreign investment, while at the same time giving Hungarian entrepreneurs the same benefits as foreign investors.

Inflation should be curbed through cuts in budget spending and the complete elimination of state subsidies to loss-making companies.

The resultant unemployment should be alleviated by boosting small medium-sized companies, launching projects to improve the country's infrastructure, reducing the working week, paying mothers who stay at home to tend their children, finding foreign employment opportunities for the surplus labour and creating new job opportunities in the countryside.

The MDF also plans a complete revision of the current taxation system.

The party intends to develop a new agrarian policy, relying mainly on private farms operated by families and real cooperative communities organized on genuine cooperative principles.

Finally, the party's social policy includes a plan to introduce a new housing policy which will give the tenants of council flats incentives to buy their home, and the putting of pension funds on a business footing.

2. The Alliance of Free Democrats (SZDSZ)

Initially a political forum for mainly Budapest-based intellectuals, the Alliance of Free Democrats, a Liberal Democratic Party with close affinity to the West German Free Democrats from whom it is said to receive financial support, has proved at the elections that it has nationwide support by securing 21.38 per cent of the votes.

The party's principal ambition is to create a modern market economy based on private ownership. While they are convinced that in a modern market economy the state can play an important role, with collective ownership and funds such as pension and medical insurance schemes also playing a part, the Free Democrats consider private capital to be the engine of the economy.

The party insists that ownership and managerial functions should be clearly separated and envisage putting some of the state companies' assets into the hands of insurance companies, local councils, foundations and non-profit organisations.

At the same time the SZDSZ plans to move for an anti-monopoly law, and also to bring the national bank of Hungary under the control of parliament, rather than the government as is presently the case, to ensure stricter controls on spending.

Agriculture, meanwhile, would be organised into a system of autonomous groups and individual undertakings.

A long-term fundamental aim is for Hungary to join the EC, while at the same time maintaining its links with COMECON countries along similar lines as those with Austria and Finland.

3. Independent Smallholders' Party

The election results suggest that the Independent Smallholders' Party, which is regarded as a mainly rural party, is the most successful of the so-called 'historic' parties—those who competed in the last free elections in 1945.

However, since the party leaders had expected no less than a landslide victory, the 11.76 per cent share of the votes the party finally achieved to put it in third place in the first round was a great disappointment.

The Smallholders' Party is in favor of a market economy. Following along the lines of Austria's fiscal policy of the 1960s and 70s, they intend to back investments aimed at creating new jobs, introducing new technology, protecting the environment and generally invigorating the economy.

They want to reduce to a minimum state control of the economy, while maintaining its influence for the abolition of state subsidies to loss-making companies.

The party considers a convertible national currency as vital for businesses to be able to trade abroad.

Perhaps its most controversial policy is in agriculture, where it has undertaken to return all land put into cooperative farms to those original owners or legal heirs who wish to claim it back according to the 1947 records of ownership, when Hungary's last multi-party elections were held. Currently some 1,400 Hungarian cooperative farms account for over 60 per cent of all farmland.

The setting up of agricultural businesses would be financed by a new network of agrarian banks to be established by the party.

Finally the Smallholders' Party plans to end the monopoly of the food-processing industry.

4. The Hungarian Socialist Party

The Hungarian Socialist Party, which emerged last year from the ashes of the former HSWP [Hungarian Socialist Workers Party—MSZMP], secured 10.89 per cent of the votes in the first round and is unlikely to act as a balancing force since all the leading parties strongly object to their involvement in a coalition.

The party's ultimate aim is democratic socialism, and they consider the reform of ownership to be a fundamental condition of renewal. They want to see state property operate on a business footing and private ownership become the engine of growth.

The party wishes to create varied forms of ownership with all sectors of the economy operating on an equal footing alongside a strong trade union movement.

The HSP [MSZP] supports the withdrawal of unjustified state support and supports competition over any potentially harmful concentrations of economic power.

The Socialists are, remarkably, the only party that specifically stresses market ethics, such as the readiness for cooperation, a good reputation, credibility and reliability.

The HSP believes that a convertible forint is vital to creating an efficient economy and maintains that no real domestic market can exist without foreign market influence.

The party wants the new government to pursue a policy that will encourge enterprise, and to take economic and legal measures to help small and medium-size companies take a bigger share of the market. It wishes to give more incentives to small-scale farmers and to boost the exports of processed foodstuffs.

The HSP's principal economic policy objectives are to curb inflation and unemployment, and maintain the country's creditworthiness.

Deputy Premier Medgyessy on Future Plans

AU2703140390 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 22 Mar 90 p 3

[Report on interview with Deputy Premier Peter Medgyessy by Zsuzsa Szep; place and date not given: "My Opinion Has Been Misinterpreted"]

[Text] The countdown has begun, and the following question is topical on the eve of the elections: What will the current ministers do after the expected change in the government? In our series, we publish today an interview with Peter Medgyessy.

According to the modified constitution, the position of deputy premier will cease to exist. Not only Peter Medgyessy but also his office are bidding farewell to the Parliament.

[Szep] Although you were the one to introduce it, the tax system is connected to the name of the current finance minister.

[Medgyessy] I have prepared many measures for the benefit of economic restructuring, and I also accept these measures. Taxation is only one part of these measures. I continue to claim with a clean conscience that there can be no market economy without a tax system, and today we would have to introduce this tax system under much more difficult conditions.

[Szep] Professionals, too, are worried about its achievement-withdrawing effects, rather than about the system itself, and they raised their voices because of the lack of a wage reform....

[Medgyessy] In my view, if someone is not properly paid for his work, this leads to obstacles in achievement. There are taxes everywhere in the world, but there is also economic performance. It is a fact that the wage system should be made free, but the coming governments will probably deal with this only gradually. During my deputy premiership, we began to liberalize the economy, an activity regarded as their own by many people who previously had deeply opposed it. A Suzuki factory is being set up in Hungary, and a change in the mining industry has begun. Professional people know that it is more difficult to carry out an economic change than a political one. The strict rules of the economy, the connection of individual elements, and the change in processes are complex tasks that require time. Whatever they promise, the new government must take this into account.

[Szep] Which party program do you agree with?

[Medgyessy] The program of the Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ] is close to what I accept. It is a fundamental issue that the tax system, the banking reform, and the liberalized economy cannot succeed without a change in the system of ownership. I think this will be the first task of the new government, if it wants to guarantee a functional market. Naturally, one can find most ideological limitations in the system of ownership, and this is the reason this system has been lagging behind so much.

[Szep] How did you become a minister?

[Medgyessy] At the end of December 1986, the Central Committee secretary asked for me and informed me about the "expectations," including the introduction of a tax system. When I agreed, he assured me that the party would support the tax system and the Presidential Council would accept it. This meant not only that the draft bill had a green light, but also that they did not have the slightest intention of submitting this issue to the Parliament. After a lengthy debate, we succeeded in convincing Ferenc Havasi, and subsequently Janos Kadar, that this was not a small issue that can be smuggled silently into the Presidential Council through the back door for approval. I also had arguments on other issues with the leadership at that time. I was struggling to do away with the economic lobbies, but I was not too successful in this. In connection with the world passports, I stressed that the population should not receive unlimited amounts of foreign currency as long as the forint was not convertible. Therefore, I was regarded as an apolitical leader. Finally, and unfortunately, I was right.

[Szep] Why did you join the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] and why did you not renew your membership in the Hungarian Socialist Party [HSP—MSZP]?

[Medgyessy] The MSZMP was a collecting party [gyujtoparty]. I wanted to be a member in this party because I thought it was easier to change things from within than from outside. The reform started at that time, in 1966, and it seemed we were advancing in the right direction.

I did not register with the HSP because I had a few political failures. One year ago, I already proposed to hold elections as soon as possible. Not out of party considerations, but because a long political and economic transition would demoralize our society. They did not understand me. There were people who claimed that the MSZMP was not strong enough for elections. The party leaders wanted to win time. I had my second big disappointed when the HSP was founded. When the MSZMP lost its power, an independent professional government should have been necessary. If we had followed this road, we could have carried out more and more courageous economic steps. However, the party argued that this would be an apolitical government, and there is no such thing. They deliberately misinterpreted my opinion. At the 14th MSZMP Congress, this party was uncertain in many things; many people thought that this party was still a class-party [osztalypart]; it was not clear that there was a need for an ownership reform and that the party should distance itself from the past. As a result, I no longer wanted to be a member of this party. I did not join the other parties in order to avoid even the semblance of preserving power.

[Szep] When you became finance minister, you were the youngest member in that government. What will happen to your career now?

[Medgyessy] Every career has a beginning and an end. It is natural when one ends a career or starts it anew. One should also have the opportunity to start anew. I worked in the Finance Ministry for almost 25 years. I started as an official, and climbed the ranks. This will determine my future area of activity. The knowledge, the prestige abroad, and the contacts I have accumulated in the past decades can be used in the banking or the insurance branches. I have received several proposals, but I have not yet decided. I do not want to exclude the possibility of return. My current wish is to charge up. I did not get enough support during my work, and sometimes, I had the feeling that they abandoned me. I must get rid of the tension of the past. One can do this if one changes things and puts his ideas in order.

Hungarian Diplomacy, European Balance Analyzed

AU2703162590 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 24 Mar 90 p 5

[Pal Bokor editorial: "Balance"]

[Text] Ever since German reunification became likely in the near future, Europe has again become a strategic question. However, one does not have to count on any forceful world power ambitions coming in the wake of Germany's reunification. A revival of militarism in Europe would require the same big power stupidity such as existed before World War II. It would also require an aggressive Germany with strategic goals, but there are no such things.

Yet, it would be a senseless luxury and criminal indolence of the mind to pretend that nothing has happened. Something did happen: A balance has been upset, and, because Europe represents an unending series of attempts of nations living in this part of the world to create a balance since the end of the 15th century, this event will not remain without consequences this time either.

The economically or militarily stronger nations will try to force their will on the weaker ones, the big powers will mostly focus their attention on other big powers, and the prosperity of small countries will continue to depend on their ability to maneuver among the bigger countries. Of course, instead of maneuvering, the small nations could seek a single protector, but this requires a rather refined political sense, something mostly characteristic of Western and Northern Europe in the past one or two centuries. There is a particularly great need for the small countries to have a sense of balance at this time of global restructuring in world politics.

So far, Hungarian diplomacy has been able to resolve these new tasks. This is partly due to political figures, but when FRG Foreign Minister Genscher, one of the most experienced diplomats in Europe, pays a short visit to Budapest on 24 March to pay tribute to his Hungarian counterpart who is stepping down and to award him one of Germany's highest decorations, this gesture will obviously also refer to the generation of foreign affairs personnel which held the leading positions in the foreign ministry in the past decade as a result of their European-level professional knowledge, their ability to conduct negotiations, an ability worthy of appreciation, and their superior knowledge of foreign languages.

It will be a difficult test for the parties surrounded by talented political scientists and reward-hunting activists, but it is in the vital interest of our country to make sure that we do not lose this talented diplomatic staff at this time of big changes in Europe, a period that still has serious tests in store.

Thinking in stereotypes is dangerous, both in white and green, as well as in red colors. If this country fails to break with the policy of opportunism whose main points were the adherence to the advancing Hitlerism in 1935 and to the victorious Stalinism in 1945, and if it only seeks a new protector instead of a new balance, then it can easily happen that Hungary will again suffer from a lack of understanding and will bewail their misfortunes.

This will happen in the best case. In the worst case—and the tensions following the atrocities in Tirgu Mures are warning us—lack of circumspection could lead to renewed loss of blood, suffering, and even greater economic distress. Even this exceptionally prepared and sensitive diplomatic staff was unable to fully quell the unfounded—but not unhistorical—suspicion among our neighbors that the self-determination of Hungarians in Romania is not a goal but a means of implementing further territorial demands. The Hungarian Foreign Ministry may think that they have a clear position, but vainly so if the map of historical Hungary is the best-seller at the book stalls in the underground passages in Budapest, and the representatives of parties that consider themselves the heirs of power in Hungary are publicly hinting at the mobility of European borders in national television broadcasts.

Anyone who talks of "European style" today, must notice among other things that, on this continent, one ought not talk about the possibility of changing borders even in connection with the reunification of Germany. Chancellor Kohl might have his domestic policy considerations for being reluctant in uttering the final word on the issue of the Oder-Neisse border, but reunification cannot and will not be carried out without clarifying this issue.

And the most recent example: Lithuania. Can one get a more clear and firm signal about the determination of the spiritual and geographical European big powers to maintain the balance of forces than the fact that all the big powers in question are neglecting the Lithuanian efforts towards independence, albeit justified and sympathetic efforts? Because openly or secretly, the big powers have a greater need for a stable and uniform Soviet Union than for independent national Baltic states. A balance is more important for Europe than the independence of the Baltic nations.

Similarly, the TASS reports on the events in Tirgu Mures could be a subject of debate and indignation, reports according to which, slightly simplified, everything started by the Hungarians hitting back. However, this is also not an issue to be approached emotionally. As long as Moscow does not see a border issue involved, it will not become sentimental over the fate of 2 million Hungarians in Transylvania, and neither will Berlin, Paris, and London. This places a huge burden on diplomacy. The task is not unsolvable this way either, but one needs even more patience, even more self-restraint, and even more readiness to maneuver: a double portion of the European attitude.

Foreign Minister Horn's Statement on Transylvania

AU2803174190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1618 GMT 28 Mar 90

["Transylvania: Statement by the Hungarian Foreign Minister"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 28/3/1990—Several representatives of the youth of Romania, who took active part in the December revolution, started a march along the Bucharest-Paris route—they are to reach Paris on July 14, the national day of France.

While walking through Budapest, the group leader, Pavel Nicolae, was received by Gyula Horn, minister of foreign affairs of Hungary. On the occasion, the Hungarian minister said: "What happened with the Hungarians in Transylvania is regrettable but Romania, which was turned into a new country by the revolution, manages to solve its problems and to provide for the conciliation of its national minorities."

Liberal Democrats Leader on Minority Rights

PM2803150290 Paris LE FIGARO in French 27 Mar 90 p 3

[Interview with Janos Kis, Hungarian Alliance of Liberal Democrats chairman, by Catherine Monroy; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted containing introductory material] [Monroy] Does the nationalities' problem, more specifically the problem of Hungarians in Transylvania, present a threat to stability in Europe?

[Kis] Hungary is prepared to accept the existing borders once and for all. But, in return, the rights of minorities in Romania and in the other East European countries must be respected. We are in favor of a statute for minorities. It could be implemented collectively in Europe.

[Monroy] This is not entirely the direction taken in Transylvania....

[Kis] We expect the European countries to state that no Romanian Government could be accepted into Europe if it does not respect and ensure respect for individual and collective rights.

[Monroy] What do you think of the resurgence of anti-Semitism in Hungary?

[Kis] Most of the democratic countries face the same problem. This is illustrated by the example of Mr Le Pen and the National Front in France. In Hungary today the question is not whether or not there is political anti-Semitism but whether it will be marginalized or at the center of concerns. One of the reasons for my optimism stems from the fact that since this anti-Semitic propaganda has developed, the number of members we have has more than doubled. This shows that anti-Semitism is not a dominant feeling.

[Monroy] What is your feeling on German unification?

[Kis] Unification is primarily a right which rests with the Germans. Nobody must interfere or prevent it. It must be accepted. It will be a death blow to the military blocs and that will have a very positive effect in Europe. However, it will be necessary to find something to counterbalance Germany. This is not because we are afraid of the Germans but because a very big power in the heart of Europe is not desirable. In this respect, France could play an important role.

[Monroy] Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn recently referred to the hypothesis of a merger between the Warsaw Pact and NATO. Do you believe that is possible?

[Kis] It strikes me as rather fanciful. I advocate a consolidation of the Helsinki structures and the creation of an all-European security system which also includes the United States, Canada, and Russia.

Deputy Foreign Minister Views Romanian Unrest

PM2803141690 Paris LIBERATION in French 23 Mar 90 pp 21-22

[Interview with Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Imre Szokay by Gilles Schiller in Budapest on 22 March]

[Text] Budapest—Deputy Foreign Minister Imre Szokay, who is 40 years old, is the member of the Hungarian Government responsible for the Transylvania question and, more generally, for relations with former fraternal countries. He is "very worried" and even "shattered" by the turn taken by events in Tirgu Mures, which he calls by its Hungarian name—Maros Vasarhely—and he agreed to answer our questions yesterday.

[Schiller] What is your answer to the Romanian Government, which accuses Hungarian tourists of fanning the flames in Transylvania?

[Szokay] Instead of calming down the extremists taking action in Romania, the Romanian Government is making accusations against Hungary, and we think that it must first make every effort to prevent violence from really erupting, particularly civil war. Vatra Romanesca, the fascist organization, appeared a month ago. It organized demonstrations in several cities, whose slogans were "Hang Laszlo Tokes; we want to drink Hungarian blood." "We must wring the necks of all Hungarians." Unfortunately, these are facts. Our Foreign Minister Gyula Horn has written twice to Sergiu Celac, his Romanian counterpart, to express "our anxiety" to him. On 14 March I summoned the Romanian ambassador to Budapest to draw his attention to the evidence I had indicating that some Romanian extremists were preparing provocations. I asked him to ensure that his government did everything in its power to ensure calm and security during the demonstrations scheduled for 15

March—the anniversary of the 1848 Hungarian revolution. Hungarians in Transylvania, as well as Hungarian tourists and Romanians, demonstrated calmly. But there are provocations. Hungarian national symbols have been desecrated.

[Schiller] Did you expect real clashes, as in Tirgu Mures?

[Szokay] We had received worrisome reports. We knew that Vatra Romanesca was assembling people in the villages, arming them with axes and sticks, and driving them around in trucks from which they shouted violent slogans against Hungarians. Everything was planned, the people were completely carried away, some were drunk.

[Schiller] Did you pass that information on to the Romanian Government?

[Szokay] Our ambassador in Bucharest was ordered to meet with President Iliescu and Prime Minister Petre Roman. They did not receive him. We observed that the forces of order allowed it to happen and did not intervene.

[Schiller] Some people say that it was a sign saying "No Romanians" in a pharmacy in Tirgu Mures which sparked things off.

[Szokay] That was stated in the Romanian Government's official communique to the Hungarian Government which, contrary to custom, was handed to the press before we received it. That is probably Balkan diplomacy.... But this is not true. Tirgu Mures is a city in which half the population is Hungarian and half Romanian. Alongside "Farmacia" in Romanian, the pharmacist simply added "Patika," which means the same thing in Hungarian. This certainly does not mean that it was prohibited to Romanians. I note that the Romanian Government is taking up the argument used by Vatra Romanesca.

[Schiller] How do you explain the Romanian authorities' attitude?

[Szokay] The essence of the problem is that any government has the primary duty to defend the security of its citizens, and the Romanian Government has not fulfilled that obligation. Similarly, some Romanian politicians have not behaved in a reasonable way, and by that I mean that they have given indirect encouragement to fascist and xenophobic organizations. Instead of responding with appropriate measures, the Romanian Government has adopted an attitude which resembles that of Ceausescu, trying to explain internal problems by external factors, launching a campaign of accusation against Hungary. Even the expressions and words used in the Romanian Government communique to the Hungarian Government were reminiscent of those used by the Ceausescu regime.

[Schiller] What measures could defuse the situation?

[Szokay] The Romanian Government must take urgent measures to reverse the current course of events. And it must not put political and electoral tactics above the interests of its minorities—Hungarian but also Serbian, Jewish, and Gypsy.

[Schiller] Do you mean that the minorities are being used as hostages?

[Szokay] Yes. The current Romanian leadership which must answer for its communist past, is simply paying lip service to the nationalists to consolidate its political position. This is a dangerous game. I am afraid that this process may become uncontrollable. If the Romanian Government continues such a policy, that could lead to very serious worries for the whole of Europe.

[Schiller] Is your government prepared to take responsibility for the safety of the Hungarians in Transylvania?

[Szokay] Hungary is prepared to provide protection for that minority by using its moral and political influence. Hungarian military preparations have been mentioned. This is not true and I strongly deny it. These problems must be solved by political means.

[Schiller] They do not carry much weight against axes....

[Szokay] It is obvious that Hungary alone will not have sufficient weight, as events have unfortunately showed us. We alerted the Romanian authorities in vain. But if France uses its moral and political influence, if the rest of Europe does the same, we can hope for real effects.

[Schiller] Hungary is voting in two days' time. Does this affair not have an electoral effect here, too?

[Szokay] It is possible that some Romanian political forces want to upset things. Some people may have thought that because Hungary was busy with its elections, there would be no reaction from us. They were mistaken, as is shown by the unanimous reaction of four of the 12 parties fighting the election, aside from the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party [name as published].

[Schiller] What do you think will happen?

[Szokay] The dangerous thing is that it is impossible to rule out the possibility of things getting worse. I have fears because under Ceausescu's terrible dictatorship, there were never any violent clashes of this type. His method of eliminating minorities was perhaps more shrewd. When a government does not prevent this kind of thing from happening, is it a responsible government?

FIDESZ To Protest at Soviet Embassy 29 Mar

LD2803200590 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] The Federation of Young Democrats invites everyone to a peaceful demonstration to express protest and solidarity tomorrow at 1800 [1600 GMT] outside the USSR Embassy on Nepkoeztarsasag Road [in Budapest]. In their appeal they express their concern over the events in Lithuania and they assure the Lithuanian people of their sincere sympathy.

Malev Announces Alternative for Soviet Jews

LD2803151690 Budapest MTI in English 1320 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Budapest, March 28, 1990 (MTI-Econews)—Malev Hungarian Airlines have announced they have found alternative routes for all those Soviet immigrants to Israel who held paid tickets on Malev Hungarian Airlines' Budapest-Tel Aviv flights and were stranded in Budapest after Malev ceased their transportation last Thursday following a terrorist threat by the Islamic Jihad.

The airline also confirmed that they are holding talks with Aeroflot and El Al on Budapest continuing to be a stopover for flights carrying Soviet Jews. Malev has undertaken to continue to provide all the ground services needed, the officials said.

Malev Director Removed; Tel Aviv Flights Resume

LD2803173490 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1630 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] We have just received the news that the managing director of Malev [Hungarian Airlines] has been relieved of his post. In fact it was with the agreement of Lajos Jahoda that the decision was made, which is connected with the tensions that have developed in recent days regarding the Tel Aviv flights. Palestinian groups had actually threatened Malev, which was transporting Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union to Israel. Now, on the basis of a joint position of the enterprise's leadership, its staff and the trade union, passenger transportation on Malev's scheduled Tel Aviv flights once more is proceeding unimpeded.

New Vatican Representative to Budapest Named

LD2903032890 Budapest MTI in English 1457 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Vatican City, March 28 (MTI)—On Wednesday, Pope John Paul II appointed titular Archbishop Angelo Acerbi, 64, to represent the Holy See in Budapest.

Angelo Acerbi was born in a village near La Spezia in 1925. He carried out several diplomatic missions, e.g. at the Paris Nunciature, and most recently represented the Vatican in Colombia. He was appointed titular archbishop by Pope Paul VI in 1974.

Diplomatic relations between Hungary and the Vatican broke off in 1945, when the Soviet commandership representing the Allied Control Committee expelled the then nuncio from the country.

After 45 years, the ties were restored in Budapest on February 9 this year. The relevant document was signed by Cardinal State Secretary Agostino Casaroli and Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth.

Prior to this, parliament passed a new law on the freedom of conscience and religion and the government placed the church-state relationship on a new basis, discontinuing all forms of interference in church affairs.

Angelo Acerbi is shortly to take his post in Budapest.

Commentary Says Mazowiecki's U.S. Visit 'Failed'

AU2903083690 Warsaw ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI in Polish 26 Mar 90 p 2

[Jerzy Markowski commentary: "A Necessary Visit"]

[Text] After Great Britain and France, the United States was the third and last Western power with which Premier Tadeusz Mazowiecki held talks about the situation in Central Europe, in connection with German unification. Specifically, he discussed safeguarding Poland's interests during this unification process. Before the visit to Washington, it was already known that the chief aim of the premier's mission would be to gain U.S. support for our desire to conclude a Polish-German border agreement prior to unification, and the Polish side never concealed this aim. The second topic, directly related to the first, was the extent of Polish participation in the "two-plus-four" talks.

Therefore, it is perfectly natural to ask: Have these aims been fulfilled? "Poland must have a say in all talks on the subject of the borders of a future united Germany," said President Bush. Most of the U.S. press interpreted this statement as an attempt to "reassure Mazowiecki and the Poles, who are worried about the forthcoming German unification and the reappearance of German voices calling for a revision of the borders." One cannot deny that this was also the U.S. President's intention. But we Poles have a saying whereby the road to hell is paved with good intentions. Does this saying not apply to the present situation? For it is very significant that although President Bush addressed many warm words to Poland and the Poles, he clearly avoided making a public statement in reply to our demand that an agreement safeguarding the Odra-Nysa border be concluded before unification. Therefore one can conclude that Premier Mazowiecki failed to obtain unequivocal U.S. support.

Differences of opinion also emerged during talks on the deployment of Soviet troops in Poland. Washington described the Polish premier's sensible standpoint whereby a withdrawal of Soviet troops depends on a solution to the German question as "surprising." Well, the security of a power, and one beyond the ocean at that, looks different from the security of a medium-sized country in the heart of Europe, and a country that is at the very fulcrum of the present changes. Thus, ways of looking at the same thing may differ, though it would seem that in this case, one obtains a far better view from close up.

The signing of an economic agreement may seem of secondary importance in the light of such priority topics. But that is an illusion, for this was the first time in many years that there was no mention of U.S. aid, instead of which there was just a mutually advantageous bilateral agreement. This has a greater flavor of normality than anything else in this sphere so far. Nevertheless, concessions in the repayment of our debts are a normal request, made by countries that are economically much stronger than ours.

Generally, perhaps one can say that this visit was necessary, for it has consolidated Polish-U.S. links, especially in the economic sphere. But it also permitted a frank expose of standpoints concerning the political and international sphere. Although differences of opinion do occur between both countries, that is normal. They are not so great that they cannot be overcome. Let us hope that as a result of this visit, both the President and the U.S. Administration will have a better understanding of the interests of Poland and the Poles, and of the standpoint of the government that is the mouthpiece of these interests.

Groups Demonstrate for Lithuanian Independence

LD2803195390 Warsaw PAP in English 1925 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Krakow, March 28: Members of the Confederation of Independent Poland (KPN), the Independent Students Union (NZS) and the Freedom and Peace Movement (WIP) today collected signatures under an appeal to Premier Tadeusz Mazowiecki to recognize Lithuania's sovereignty and establish diplomatic relations with it during a picket organized in front of the USSR consulate general here.

Also today in the northern city of Gdansk a several dozen strong group of members of the Fighting Youth federation and NZS demonstrated in front of the Soviet Consulate under the slogans of support for Lithuania's independence.

In Warsaw the authorities of the Christian Democratic Labour Party responded with concern to the Soviet authorities' reaction to the proclamation of Lithuania's independence and called on Mikhail Gorbachev to respect the will of the Lithuanian nation.

Public Opinion Poll Favors German Unification

LD2803154290 Warsaw PAP in English 0934 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Warsaw, March 28—Almost half of those questioned (48 per cent) by the public opinion polling centre of the Polish radio and television committee said that both German states should unite. At the same time 2/5 of those polled, on March 5 and 6, (39 per cent) was against such unification.

In comparison, during a similar poll held in October, 1987, only 29 per cent of those polled were in favour of such unification and 47 per cent in November 1989.

Asked whether the unification of both German states would be favourable for Poland, ⅔ of the respondents

(67 per cent) had a negative opinion, 13 per cent it would be favourable, including 2 per cent who said it would be very favourable for Poland.

The majority of those polled expressed their concern that united Germany could present terriotorial claims against Poland. 69 per cent of those questioned said that future united Germany would pose a threat to Poland's borders.

Inflation Increases Party Funding Commitment

PM2303160790 Warsaw TYGODNIK SOLIDARNOSC in Polish 2 Feb 90 p 21

['jesz.'-signed article: "Who Is Going to Pay?"]

[Text] During the whole period of the success-filled existence of the Polish People's Republic, political parties were also financed from the state budget. The qualifier "also" is there because a proportion of the funds came from enterprises enjoying special financial privileges.

Last year's central budget provided for the following subsidies to political parties: Polish United Workers Party [PZPR]—13 billion zloty [Z]; United Peasant Party [ZSL]—Z600 million; Democratic Party [SD]—Z455 million. Inflation was responsible for the fact that the parties demanded additional subsidies from the budget. In the somewhat altered political situation, the bank refused to give way to this demand and suggested giving loans instead.

By the middle of last year, the following loans were granted: PZPR—Z18 billion; ZSL—Z6.5 billion; SD—Z2.5 billion. These loans carried an interest rate of 3 percent. At that time the general interest rate was 55 percent. While granting the loans, the bank demanded that the finance minister make up the difference in the interest rates from the state budget and loan securities.

Consequently, in the first quarter of this year the finance minister owes the bank some Z40 billion for party debts.

He will find it difficult to obtain the funds from the enterprises which previously financed the old parties. Their special corporation tax allowance (1 percent instead of 40 percent) has been abolished. Last year the RSW "cooperative" [party-controlled publishing concern] which financed the PZPR made nearly Z35 billion out of it, while the Cepelia folk art cooperative which financed the ZSL made more than Z10 billion. Similarly, the Epoka publishing house (SD) gave Z200 million for the party's expenses, whereas the three joint companies which financed the SD were made exempt from all tax and consequently made nearly Z1.5 billion.

The many worries that beset the finance minister are compounded by the following: How to square accounts over the three parties' debts?

POLITYKA Attacks Signs of Anti-Semitism

PM2803084690 Warsaw POLITYKA in Polish 10 Feb 90 p 5

[Marian Turski commentary: "More Dangerous Than We Suspect"]

[Text] The following item appeared in GAZETA WYBORCZA 24 January 1990 under the rubric "Citizens' Views Phone-In":

"There is no crisis in the Security Service (SB). The SB is increasing its output! An output of vulgar gossip and insinuation. The poor people standing in line in the streets 'buy' this and spread it far and wide: 'Have you heard the latest revelation?' And the revelations are as follows: 'Our pope has been married before!'; or: 'Mazowiecki pretends he is so pious only because he is Jewish!'; and so on, about all the government members in turn and Lech Walesa as well. The point is that it is not only simple and stupid people who believe such things. The point is that even sensible and reasonable people are beginning to panic, myself included."

This little item calls for at least two reflections. The first concerns the substance of the article. I know—and I have proof of it—that since 1968 the SB has been regularly involved in producing and circulating very many similar repulsive insinuations. But can an honest and sensible person today assuage his conscience when he hears such nationalistic, chauvinistic gossip and insinuations—all directed at public susceptibility to anti-semitic sentiments—by saying: This is the SB's doing. It is only the SB "increasing its output"? Has an honest and sensible person any right to say this?

I am reading one of the recent issues of the Poznan weekly WPROST (issue no. 2). A report from the Lech-Maccabi basketball match states: "Loud calls of 'Yids! Yids! Yids!' greeted the players from Tel Aviv's Maccabi club." Then, in an account of the match itself we read: "The real fans keep chanting: 'Auschwitz-Birkenau-sha-la-la', while one of them screams: 'Jews to the gas chambers!'" Can we be so certain that it was exclusively the SB members who filled the Poznan Arena stadium?

In the latest issue of SZPILKI we find a reprint of an appeal entitled "Those Who Sow Confusion" and signed by "The Catholic Self-Defense League." (Why reprint it in the first place? Is it so that this sordid stuff could be disseminated through so many thousands of copies of SZPILKI?) The League declares openly: "Today the campaign to sow confusion in the minds of Polish people is particularly intensive, since it is carried out from three sides at once—the Jewish faction within the Polish United Workers Party (PZPR), the left (Walesa-led) wing of Solidarity, and a group of Catholic priests and bishops of Jewish extraction." There follows a long list of Solidarity activists and clergymen—with a number of bishops and an archbishop among the latter—and concludes with a demand that "Poland be ruled by Poles and

not by Jews and masons, regardless of whether they have safe and secure seats in the party or in the Jewish-dominated Solidarity!"

Are all these good patriots who recently demonstrated their positions in the Open Studio television program members of the SB?

If the whole problem was limited to SB provocations, we could sleep undisturbed. In my opinion, we have no right to sleep undisturbed.

And another reflection: Should we journalists not demonstrate more responsibility by refusing to print all such provocative and repulsive material in our papers? Does free and unrestricted dissemination of fascist invectives really serve democracy well?

Meeting Views Local Government Elections

AU2603075590 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 19 Mar 90 pp 1,3

[Iwona Czechowska report: "A New System in New Hands"]

[Text] At a conference of Civic Committees in Warsaw on 18 March, Premier Tadeusz Mazowiecki announced that local government elections would take place on 27 May. Thus, the election process will be set in motion. The following will be appointed: a general electoral commissar, voivodship commissars (it is suggested that the judges of voivodship courts should be these commissars), and electoral commissions at all levels. A detailed schedule for the elections has already been worked out.

Government plenipotentiaries for local government matters should be appointed by 1 April, because the government does not want the present administration to get its hands on local government bodies that are due to change the system in Poland in a radical way. These plenipotentiaries should be people belonging to the new wave of politics.

In his speech, the premier called the local government elections a key political event in 1990. These elections will be completely free. Reestablishing genuine local government is one of the most important tasks, he said. No democratic state can exist without real local democracy. However, reestablishing democratic local government means more than just holding an election. It also means having to reform the legal and economic systems, so that local councillors may freely govern cities and rural districts. We want local communities to take matters into their own hands, said Tadeusz Mazowiecki. We want genuine local government.

At the same time local government renews, there will be a renewal of the state administration, Mazowiecki continued. Each of these two institutions has its own tasks, and one cannot put one above the other. They must complement each other. The elections will commence a great reform of Polish local government. We must do everything we can for it to succeed. Today, Poland is governed by the rule of law, and the rule of law draws the boundaries of rights and liberties for the state administration and for local government bodies. Hopes of enhancing the entire reform of the state are vested in these elections, and they are an integral part of this reform. The state administration will be obliged to help the local government bodies in their work, and the government will see to it that it does.

The civic committees have a great role to play in this work. These committees are one of the most important springs in the mechanism of repairing Poland. The premier pointed out the importance of mutual understanding, an attitude on which democracy is based.

Professor Bronislaw Geremek, chairman of the Citizens' Parliamentary Club, recalled that local government was one of the chief slogans of last year's election. At that time, we said that a move to democracy requires the building of new local structures and new elections, he said. Our task was to lay the legal foundations for these changes.

Zdzislaw Najder spoke on behalf of Lech Walesa, as Walesa's plenipotentiary. He said that there will be no recommendations, and no one will perform anyone else's work. The "Solidarity" chairman's Civic Committee will be in favor of a multiplicity of stances and programs, but will also help in the struggle against the nomenklatura which has changed colors. In this struggle, the adversary is not a national election list or a ruling coalition, but social passiveness, which must be overcome.

The conference participants heard the opinions of Jerzy Stepien, Stanislaw Padykula, Jerzy Regulski, and Michal Kulesza, who have been directly engaged in drafting the legal documents for local government bodies and for the elections. They had the opportunity to ask questions and hear first-hand information. There is still considerable doubt, especially because not all the legislation permitting a complete reform of local and state government exists yet. Minister Regulski said that a law on state administration and local government, plus a law that distributes power between the central government and local government bodies, will be passed in the nearest future. This latter draft, 94 pages long, mentions legal instruments from every sphere of life, and specifies what will be in the hands of whom.

Immediately after the elections, the enormous operation of transferring communal assets must commence, in accordance with the Communal Property Act. Local government bodies will take over about 2,000 enterprises that are still in the hands of the state. One must also envisage attempts to buy these enterprises and make them private.

As far as the elections themselves are concerned, these are certainly a very difficult undertaking. They will be conducted according to new legal instruments and a complicated set of election rules. There is no election apparatus, and such an apparatus has to be created from scratch in a very short time. The Civic Committees are

faced with an enormous number of organizational, technical, and financial problems. But it is not the government that is holding these elections, but society, said Professor Regulski.

Council of Ministers on Agriculture, Party Assets

AU2603101590 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 20 Mar 90 pp 1,2

[Report by RZECZPOSPOLITA editor in chief Dariusz Fikus. "Help for Agriculture, Abolition of the Workers' Publishing Cooperative"]

[Excerpts] This time, the Monday Council of Ministers session started at 1030, instead of the usual 1500. The talks were chaired by Premier Tadeusz Mazowiecki. The discussion on the subject of emergency government undertakings to ease the social and economic tension in rural areas lasted five hours.

The demand for agricultural produce and food has sunk. Farmers have found themselves in a difficult situation, particularly those engaged in the production of commodities who have applied for credits. Experts from the Agricultural Ministry present at the meeting quoted from the results of a survey which revealed that farmers managing 10 hectares of good land have lower incomes than the minimum wage level. Many bitter complaints of this nature were to be heard at this meeting. However, the dilemma of reducing inflation without reducing output remains a valid topic. Inflation is particularly hard on the farmers.

Farmers stated their cases during the discussion. One of them, Antoni Leopold, said that rural poverty is increasing, and that there is a vacuum as far social security in rural areas is concerned. On the other hand, representatives from the Finance Ministry said that the fall in demand for food is a permanent phenomena, and the only solution to the problem are profound structural changes in rural areas. Agriculture is not the only economic sector to experience a harsh confrontation with the new reality. One must seek a solution not in new privileges and preferential treatment, but in a bold program of agricultural restructuring. [passage omitted]

Next, the Council of Ministers discussed the bill to abolish the Workers' Publishing Cooperative. The bill is the result of the deadlock in the talks between the Government Commission for Investigating the Assets of Political Parties and the Social Democracy of the Polish Republic [SdRP]. The Commission has already drawn up an inventory of the assets of political parties and youth organizations, and has investigated the legal status of these assets.

The Commission has decided to give to the SdRP the printing plants belonging to the Cooperative, plus one national daily, three or four regional dailies, one weekly, one monthly, and one book publishing house. But that does not satisfy the appetites of the SdRP and its allies, the League of Polish Women, Union of Polish Socialist Youth, Rural Youth Union, Polish Students' Union, and the East-West Foundation. They are asking for 2,000 newspaper kiosks, 8 printing plants, the whole of the "Pexim" Foreign Trade Enterprise which was formed by the Workers' Publishing Cooperative in 1988, and vacation centers in Kazimierz and Rabka, the central supplies depot, and the transportation depot.

It was pointed out during the Council of Ministers session that the Government Commission-SdRP talks had only concerned fixed assets. The Commission was not interested in movable assets. The Commission's chief aim was to settle the whole matter legally and culturally, and not confiscate everything "down to the last paper clip." Therefore, the point is not to achieve a propaganda effect, but to conduct a fair process of accountability vis-a-vis the Workers Publishing Cooperative, a concern created as a result of long years of misappropriating other people's property.

In a situation of such differences of opinion, the government had no option but to approve the bill to abolish the Cooperative. It is based on the provisions of the Cooperatives Act.

Arms Manufacturers 'To Obtain Export Licenses'

AU2303134590 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 21 Mar 90 p 1

['ek'-signed report: "The Arms Business"]

[Text] The Polish arms industry specializes in tanks, ships, radar stations, and munitions. Its capacity significantly exceeds current military needs. In extreme cases we do not use as much as 85 percent of what arms factories are capable of producing. The options are: Close the factories or export weapons.

If we want to be a sovereign country, we cannot stop producing weapons. Many enterprises are seeking to enter other markets and obtain permits to export weapons, but the issue is delicate, politically and often ethically.

At a news conference given on Tuesday [20 March], Marcin Swiecicki, minister of foreign economic relations, said: "The immediate reason for putting the arms trade in order was the attack on a Polish ship carrying arms in the Red Sea."

At a 20 March interdepartmental conference, called by Minister Swiecicki, it was decided to end the Central Board of Engineering's monopoly. Arms manufacturers will be able to obtain export licenses. The Central Board of Engineering will become a normal trade enterprise.

The control of exports will become formalized, because until now it has been conducted "over the phone." Every transaction will be licensed.

Political control will now be exercised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which will draw up a list stating the countries to which arms may be exported, and what may

not be exported. Every contract involving the list will have to receive the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Other contracts will have to be approved by the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations.

Exports of military hardware are worth several hundred million dollars a year and mean several dozen factories and thousands of jobs. The main recipients were Warsaw Pact allies and some Third World countries. So far NATO has not expressed any interest in our products.

Poland occupies a place somewhere between the thirtieth and fortieth entries in the list of arms exporting countries worldwide.

The government will issue an appropriate directive within a month.

Opinion Poll on Balcerowicz Economic Program

AU2803115990 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 21 Mar 90 p 3

[Piotr Pacewicz report: "It Will Succeed, But Not Definitely"]

[Text] Almost every respondent thought the present changes are necessary, but as many as two-thirds considered them insufficient. Only 50 percent of the respondents believed Poland would emerge from the crisis by 1995. Over one half saw no difference in work organization and the deployment of people with qualifications. The percentage of respondents considering their material situation to be normal was 12 percent higher than the year before, but only two- thirds of them thought they were receiving adequate pay. As many as 50 percent recognized the likelihood of strikes, but not in their own work place. Almost 30 percent thought their work place would go bankrupt, and 40 percent expected to become unemployed. According to two-thirds of the respondents, television is beautifying reality.

These, in outline, are the results of an opinion poll carried out by the Public Opinion Research Center [CBOS] at the beginning of March.

Some 96 percent of the state employees polled by CBOS (in other words excluding farmers, employees in the private sector, pensioners, and students) thought that the present economic changes are necessary. Some 75 percent thought they are far-reaching. Some 61 percent thought they had been carefully premeditated. As many as two-thirds considered them insufficient,

The Balcerowicz Plan was fully supported by 36 percent of the respondents, eight percent less than in January and three percent less than in February. The percentage of respondents opposed to the Plan remained at 11.

On the other hand, there was a surprising drop in people's faith that Poland would survive the crisis and enter a development stage within five years. Of the 63 percent of respondents who believed this in February, only 52 percent believed it in March. However, two-thirds of the respondents still believed that the present period was but the "prelude to Poland's shaking off its difficulties."

Assessments of Balcerowicz's program from the point of view of the work place were more cautious. As many as two-thirds of the respondents thought "the program would be continued, but its outcome is very uncertain."

As far as the general effects of economic changes are concerned, society's views are similar to the government's. Some 77 percent of respondents believed that productivity and work quality would improve, and 65 percent believed that the market situation would improve.

The dollar exchange rate was assessed in favorable terms. Almost three-quarters of respondents considered it "acceptable." But almost half considered the interest on credits, the tax paid by enterprises, and customs tariffs to be scandalously high.

Almost half the respondents thought their enterprises were in a worse situation than at the end of 1989. Only 15 percent thought they were in a better situation. The exceptions were people employed in education, health, culture, and other spheres of the budget, almost half of whom thought the situation had not changed, and almost one-third of whom thought it had deteriorated.

What has become worse? Some 69 percent of respondents said the availability of goods, 53 percent said the financial situation, 53 percent said the size of production, and 40 percent said the supply of raw materials.

Some 62 percent of respondents thought that the use of qualified people had not improved. Some 54 percent thought work organization had not improved. Some 55 percent believed more materials were being saved, 54 percent thought energy was being saved, and 41 percent thought that attitudes between workers and their managements had improved.

Fourth-fifths of those polled feel that we are becoming poorer. As many as three-quarters agreed that being quick-witted is more profitable than being industrious. More than half are of the opinion that the current changes discourage people from working and are generally disheartening.

The overall climate is gradually becoming calmer. In February, 22 percent of those polled were short of money, compared to 33 percent in January. More than half the respondents (about 12 percent more than at the beginning of February) considered their financial situation to be "normal."

It is surprising that as many as two-thirds considered the wages that they received in February to be fair although almost as many respondents were worried about the amount of money that they had. As many as three-quarters of those polled are pleased with their jobs.

The further improvement in the supply of goods is pleasing. This is especially true of meat, meat products such as sausages, and sugar (this is what 64 percent say), and of televisions and audio equipment (67 percent), household appliances (65 percent), furniture (60 percent), and fuel (56 percent).

The prices of manufactured goods are considered "scandalous" and "totally unacceptable": furniture (79 percent); televisions and audio equipment (78 percent); household appliances (74 percent); pharmaceuticals (62 percent); shoes (61 percent); clothing (57 percent); rents (52 percent); electricity (51 percent).

Prices of foodstuffs are considered less shocking: meat (49 percent); bakery products (45 percent); eggs, dairy products, and sugar (more than 40 percent); flour (36 percent); and fruit and vegetables (21 percent).

A wage increase in the foreseeable future is considered realistic by 8 percent; likely by 29 percent; unlikely by 54 percent; and impossible by 10 percent. A third intend to boost their incomes by performing additional work, and the rest intend to save.

As many as 39 percent of respondents are treating the possibility of being laid off seriously, with three-quarters being of the opinion that they will lose their jobs, because the enterprises employing them will go bankrupt. We are beginning to become familiar with unemployment: 53 percent know the level of unemployment benefit, that is, 10 percent more than a month ago.

The perceptible effects of unemployment seem to have impacted rather positively on the economy: better work (86 percent); the expansion of private enterprise (56 percent), and increased labor productivity (53 percent). More people fear that the unemployed will be left to fend for themselves (35 percent) than believe that the state will provide assistance (31 percent). The remainder have no opinion on the matter.

There was a slight drop in the number of people who were prepared to open businesses of their own: from 36 percent in February to 34 percent.

As many as half of those polled considered strikes or protests against government economic policy to be very likely. However, when asked if their workplace would go on strike if living standards deteriorated further, the figure was lower: strikes organized by unions being expected by 25 percent and "wildcat" strikes by 17 percent.

If a "spontaneous strike" were to occur in a workplace, 43 percent would take part. One fourth of those polled expect support for parties and organizations that attack the government to increase.

Television is the main source of information on the government program. Two-thirds of those polled feel that television newscasts "do everything possible to support the Balcerowicz program," but those who felt that newscasts do so effectively (28 percent) were outnumbered by those who believed that they were ineffective (38 percent).

On the basis of television programs, two-thirds felt that the government knows what the state of the market is like. About one half felt that the government knew what people's material circumstances and attitudes were like.

In the opinion of respondents, television itself makes reality appear to be better than it actually is. One-third felt that television shows the supply situation to be better than it actually is and as many as two-thirds felt that it idealizes people's material circumstances and their true attitudes.

Peasant Party Leader Olesiak Gives Interview

AU2803163490 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 22 Mar 90 p 1

[Interview with Kazimierz Olesiak, president of the "Rebirth" Polish Peasant Party, by "B.C."; place and date not given: "Question of the Day"]

[Text] [ZYCIE WARSZAWY] The statement that the press spokesman of the "Rebirth" Polish Peasant Party made on television on 20 March could be taken to be an announcement to the effect that the party was leaving the governing coalition. Is this something that we can really expect?

Kazimierz Olesiak: We recently presented the government with an adjustment program. It is not meant to be a program that is an alternative to the Balcerowicz program or a kind of program in opposition to it. We are proposing a different set of solutions from the present ones—not only for agriculture, but for the economy as a whole—by proceeding from the opposite of the current philosophy: The fight against inflation cannot be an end in itself and the magnitude of the recession is so great that it is time to stimulate production. We consider the situation in agriculture to be very bad: significantly fewer sows are being covered; prices of piglets have fallen; livestock is being sold off. Meat stocks—the meat that farmers were supposed to have been hoarding—are being exhausted. Being concerned about the level of the recession in agriculture, we appeal for minimum prices for farm produce, cheaper loans, and lower pension and insurance contributions in order to stimulate agriculture instead of strangling it.

If the government does not heed our proposals, we will not want to bear political responsibility for the effects of the present policy; a policy that we oppose. We are not going into opposition yet, because we have ministers in the government and our deputies have not exhausted their means to influence things. Decisions concerning the party's position in the national political landscape are made by "Rebirth" Polish Peasant Party's Supreme Executive Committee. For the time being, we are waiting for the government's reply.

Interview With New Left Chairman Cimoszewicz

AU2603141890 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 24-25 Mar 90 p 3

[Interview with Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz, newly elected chairman of the Parliamentary Club of the Democratic Left, by Jan Forowicz; place and date not given: "A Period of Regrettable Strife?"]

[Text] A few hours before new divisions in the parliamentary left became a fact, deputy Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz gave an interview to RZECZPOSPOLITA.

[Cimoszewicz] I am 39 years old, and I have a doctorate in public international law. In 1985, I realized that, first, I would not be able to make ends meet solely through my academic work at Warsaw University and, second, my children's health required a complete change of climate, and so I left Warsaw and began to farm 20 hectares in Kalinowka, which is in the Bialystok voivodship.

[Forowicz] After four years, you returned to Warsaw as a member of parliament representing the former Polish United Workers Party [PZPR].

[Cimoszewicz] In the Bialystok voivodship the search was on for possible parliamentary candidates and I applied to the selection committee with a program for fighting inflation by drastic cuts in central government expenditure. I also supported a policy of strengthening the agricultural sector and saw the need for new regulations on national minorities. I was elected as party candidate, and in the election I was successfully elected to the Sejm.

[Forowicz] The Parliamentary Club of the Democratic Left is no longer the same club that you joined some eight months ago. The club's internal configuration keeps on changing. In your opinion, what is the appropriate course of action that the former PZPR deputies have to take?

[Cimoszewicz] First, some of our deputies should stop pretending that they were not elected to represent the former PZPR. For me this is really a question of a clean conscience. We should be striving to preserve the existence of a coherent group of deputies and to defend ourselves from the danger of a possible disintegration of the post-PZPR left. If we do not succeed in preserving unity in the left, then, in my opinion, we are facing a period of regrettable strife that will inevitably lead to the left losing all political credibility.

[Forowicz] Many people have already stopped believing in it....

[Cimoszewicz] I would like to underscore the significance of securing a consensus of the left in the Sejm. Given the fact that in this current parliament all the deputies are unanimously agreed on the importance of constructive actions leading to reform, the disintegration or unity of the left will not really impinge on the legislative activity of the Sejm. The subtle difference between the effectiveness of the left when it acts as a united force or when it is in a state of disarray, will only become apparent when the present actions being taken by the government come to be evaluated. The policies of a government that is supported by the Citizens Parliamentary Club do not always meet with the approval of the general public. I would consider it more healthy if the government's policies were subject to a very wide and profound debate. This task would be made easier if the forces of the left remained united. I fully identify with this government, but this does not mean that I am to remain totally uncritical of its policies.

[Forowicz] In your opinion, and putting aside the question of adherence to any parliamentary club, what is the paramount goal of your current parliamentary activity.

[Cimoszewicz] As a member of the Commission on the Constitution, I consider that fate has given us an extraordinary opportunity to create a fully rational, sovereign, basic law that will be devoid of any ideology. This is a great privilege which has been granted to all the current Sejm deputies, so long as we are left in peace to work on the new Constitution.

Solidarity '80 National Commission Named

LD2603175390 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1600 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] In Szczecin, the Provisional National Coordinating Commission (TKKP) of the Independent Self-Governing Trade Union (NSZZ) Solidarity '80 has been created. Marian Jurczyk has become commission chairman. NSZZ Solidarity '80 gathers within its ranks those former members of the Independent Self-Governing Trade Union (NSZZ) Solidarity '80 who did not join that union after the registration in 1989, believing that it departed from the ideals of August 1980. Representatives of ten regions took part in the Szczecin meeting.

Solidarity National Executive Commission Meets

LD2803141190 Warsaw PAP in English 2156 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Gdansk, March 27—The presidium of the Solidarnosc National Executive Commission (KKW) debated here today. The first part of the session had an international character as delegations of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions with its vice-chairman Enzo Friso and the World Confederation of Labour took part in it. Solidarnosc is a member of both trade union organizations.

The meeting discussed a programme of trade union training organized for Solidarnosc activists by the befriended trade unions, says a communique conveyed to PAP by KKW press spokeswoman Barbara Malak.

Welcoming the guests, Lech Walesa said: We try to increasingly resemble you and want to change from amateurs into professionals.

The second part of the meeting was devoted to discussion on current questions, namely, the evaluation of the last meeting with the government, preparations for the congress and the Solidarnosc stand on the law on the factory system of wages.

Member of the presidium Jacek Merkel introduced new director-general of the Solidarnosc foundation Julian Skelnik [word indistinct]. He was selected through a competition in which 13 candidates took part. Skelnik is an economist and worked previously in the institute of maritime transport and next in a private company.

Internal Affairs Ministry Officials Resign

LD2803152290 Warsaw PAP in English
1440 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Warsaw, March 28—"Head of the former 4th department of the Internal Affairs Ministry (MSW), which dealt with investigation of priests, General Tadeusz Szczygiel has resigned from the post," GAZETA WYBORCZA reported today.

"Also head of the present department for protection of the constitutional order in the state General Krzysztof Majchrowski has offered his resignation. He was known as an author of aggressive publications on opposition under martial law," the paper wrote.

"Five other MSW generals have resigned their offices in the recent days," the paper said.

Defense Minister Siwicki Decries Discrimination

LD2603223890 Warsaw PAP in English
2121 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Warsaw, March 26—Minister of National Defence Gen. Florian Siwicki granted PAP the following statement:

Among the postulates presented by the participants of the protest action at the "Porty Lotnicze" (airports) enterprise there is a demand to immediately dismiss career soldiers employed there and not to hire such people in the future.

The demand to dismiss or not hire people just because they are military experts constitutes discrimination of people in uniform and goes against the principles of the policy of Tadeusz Mazowiecki's government which place know-how and professional competence as the paramount criteria of cadre usefulness.

I wish to express a hope that these strivings which are contrary to law will be withdrawn.

Mazowiecki Introduces Ban on Spirits, Vodka

LD2803143590 Warsaw PAP in English
1811 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Warsaw, March 27—A ban on import of rectified spirit and pure vodkas, introduced by Premier Tadeusz Mazowiecki, is to become effective as of this March 29. President of the Main Customs Office Tomasz Bartoszewicz said during a session of the government coordinating committee for law observance.

Airline Opens New Warsaw-Vilnius Air Service

LD2803084490 Warsaw PAP in English
1812 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Vilnius, March 27—The "Letuvos Avialinies" airline opened today a new regular (every Tuesday) air connection Vilnius-Warsaw.

Additional flights on Saturdays, serviced by the Polish airlines "Lot" are to be started this June.

Iliescu News Conference on Current Issues

AU2803130990 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 25 Mar pp 1,4

[Report on news conference by Ion Iliescu, president of the Provisional National Unity Council, in Bucharest on 24 March]

[Text] On Saturday morning, Mr. Ion Iliescu, president of the Provisional National Unity Council [PNUC], met with representatives of the Romanian press. On this occasion, he made the following statements:

"Three months have elapsed since the overthrow of the dictatorship. Tomorrow, Timisoara even celebrates the 100-day anniversary of the events in Timisoara, and we will naturally mark this radical turning point in our country's history, and the spirit which inspired this popular explosion that led to the overthrow of a totalitarian regime. One should primarily emphasize the unanimous consensus that has prevailed in the country in connection with the need for and the reality of overthrowing the old regime. There has also been such a consensus on the need to bring about radical changes in our people's life and to firmly embark upon the road of the country's democratization.

"As it is only natural, certain dissensions have also appeared in our political life, which lead to the emergence of diverse positions, controversies, and even more or less civilized confrontations in connection with the stances of the newly created political formations. Reviewing the various moments of this evolution, including the emergence of some extreme tensions, I believe that we have managed, in spite of everything, to agree on a cooperation formula during this difficult period for our country, a period marked by profound crisis phenomena inherited from the past and by other hardships in the economic and social sphere and in the process of reorganizing the country's political life.

"The PNUC consists of all political formations that have emerged in this period and has paved the way for dialogue and cooperation, even though this dialogue has occasionally proceeded in a tense atmosphere. We have reached a kind of situation and have arrived at a formula, within the framework of which we are all learning to coexist and to talk to each other on the most pressing problems. We also scored a positive result; namely, the joint drafting of the electoral law, the most important document jointly worked out and adopted by the PNUC. The way in which this law was adopted was a true school for all of us. It initially appeared as a draft bill worked out by experts and lawyers; then, for more than one-and-a-half months, it was improved on, thanks to the constructive activity and participation of the representatives of all parties. The whole drafting process was a unique experience, a fact also noted by many lawyers and experts in constitutional matters. In spite of different viewpoints, we agreed on a drafting formula accepted by everybody. The draft bill was adopted by PNUC with two votes against and one abstention, and it represents a working platform for the entire period of the electoral campaign, which basically began on 20 March.

"It is a pity that this period was marked by a negative moment—namely, the bloody events in Tirgu Mures and the escalation of violence there—at an already difficult time for our country; these events were the culmination of a cumulative process. Of course, there has been an accumulation of many issues during the history of relations between Romanians and Hungarians and between the two countries, Romania and Hungary, but we hoped that with the overthrow of the dictatorship (which also created moments of tension, which it repressed at that time), a new page will be opened in the coexistence between the majority of the Romanian population and the Hungarian minority in Transylvania, under democratic and civilized conditions. As a matter of fact, the overthrow of the dictatorship has seen a moment of complete understanding in this respect, because the negative impact of the dictatorship on the life of the country and people has equally affected both the life of the Romanians and of the various minorities. The aforementioned consensus in the overthrow of the dictatorship was a real one for all Romanians, regardless of nationality. Later, however, in the context of certain tensions that have emerged in the relations with the Hungarian minority, several domestic and foreign factors have also had their hand in play, something which exacerbated these tensions. As we all know, these tensions have been systematically fomented by a certain well-orchestrated propaganda. After several most positive signals in the immediate post-revolutionary period and after the two countries, Romania and Hungary, expressed their common desire to promote new and friendly relations between our countries, on the basis of democratic principles, we considered as unfriendly certain stances voiced there, which only fueled the elements of tension in the interethnic relations in Transylvania. To all this, one should add certain acts of impatience, haste, and exaggeration in connection with demands that we consider as legitimate. We have proclaimed the democratic principle of Romania's adherence to the generally valid international principles on observation of the rights of the national minorities, with everything this implies—namely, full equality of all the country's citizens, their unhampered participation in the entire process of our social, political, and cultural life, the full assertion of their own awareness and culture, the use of the mother tongue, and so forth. However, certain elements of impatience and haste have exacerbated this state of suspicion and distrust, which, generally speaking, affects us all at this time. Certain measures taken in the sphere of education in some Transylvanian schools have particularly accentuated this state of spirit.

"We believe that the Tirgu Mures events were an escalation of a moment of tension, and the result of actions undertaken by certain extremist elements, who are generally interested in the destabilization of the country. Events there show to what extremes the incitement of instinctual urges can lead, particularly the incitement of

nationalistic feelings that led to such extreme measures and such reckless and irrational acts. We want to create optimal and normal coexistence conditions for the country's citizens, on the basis of mutual esteem and respect; we have a solid base for this long-standing, centuries-old coexistence of all national minorities which appeared, developed, and lived alongside the Romanian people. Therefore, both sides should promote tolerance, an open spirit, dialogue, mutual understanding, and, if need be, mutual concepts, as is the case with all communities.

"As I have said on another occasion, too, tensions and distrust also occasionally appear even in a family of only two persons. If the two members of a family were to stick to their rigid uncompromising positions, without allowing for concessions, life would become a permanent struggle. This is all the more valid in a larger community, where language, cultural, and traditional differences can emerge. However, a spirit of tolerance and mutual understanding should prevail, so as to resolve problems. This is how we must approach the issue, because we can only solve our problems through democratic means. In this respect, I believe that extremist and rigid positions, as well as the adoption of a confrontational line, are irrational acts that are no use to anyone.

"We were reproached for failing to prevent this situation. Maybe this is true. However, in the current conditions of tension generated by the present stage of our society, it is very difficult to find the necessary balance. We were reproached for failing to use force. What do the critics mean by that? That we should have resorted to the military occupation of the country? Such an act would have been fraught with unknown sources of tension and explosion. Is this the way we should choose? Should we resort to a police system in order to control the various communities, or should we take the natural and normal political road of dialogue and the promotion of a spirit of understanding?

"In this respect, I believe that extremist, uncooperative, and intolerant positions, regardless of who their advocates may be, are the main danger for our stability and for the democratic solution of all problems.

"In this respect, we have carried out scrupulous activity in recent days, which produced some results. The commission appointed by the PNUC and the government has been active for several days in Tirgu Mures and succeeded, by showing patience and overcoming many difficulties—because, as you can well imagine, after the acts of violence there, many residues in the peoples memories have been unleashed, as well as their desire for revenge and vendetta—in establishing the necessary dialogue between the two sides; that is, between the representatives of the Hungarian population and the Romanian population, between the representatives of Vatra Romaneasca and the Hungarian Democratic Union. Thus, with patience and tenacity and in an open spirit, we finally managed to reach a certain understanding and diminish the tension in the city. One cannot say that the problems have been solved and that calm has been restored, as there is still tension, suspicion, and distrust there, on both sides. However, a positive thing is that the county and municipal commissions have met and jointly decided to elect the county's and municipality's executive bureaus. On this occasion, a number of people were removed from their posts, people who, through their rigid positions, have contributed to the creation of a certain state of tension and distrust. The Romanians and the Hungarians eventually elected a new County Executive Bureau and, in the afternoon, the new Municipal Executive Bureau. They even found a way that we thought was quite wise. In view of the heightened spirits of mutual suspicion, it was suggested that the Hungarians should decide on the Romanian representatives in the councils and the Romanians on the Hungarian representatives, in an attempt to find a way to foster mutual trust. That is why we fail to understand the attitude of the representative of the Peasants Party, who protested, expressed his disapproval with that procedure, and left the meeting only to return later, with several noisy young people in the square. You realize what this might have led to after two days of the lessening of tensions and a somewhat improved atmosphere, which was still rather fragile at that point. That gesture might have led to new conflicts. How can one qualify such a tempestuous act other than as criminal? What was the point of it all? Likewise, Mr. Cunescu [leader of the Social Democratic Party] had a violent outburst last night on TV, when he condemned the activity of that commission and its performance in those very difficult conditions. Is this how one should behave? Such impulsive gestures and narrow-minded party considerations are very dangerous, particularly when they are placed above the basic interests that should bind us all in the common effort to calm down the situation. Consequently, one should properly weigh and think over one's position.

"In this respect, the press is also called upon to show more restraint, caution, and maturity. I agree with the need to disclose the whole truth, but the truth alone is not enough. It depends on how you present it. Facts alone do not suffice. It depends on how you view them. The same facts can be interpreted in different ways. The way you present them can help to lead to understanding or to the very opposite—namely, provoking resentment and uncontrolled outbursts. From this viewpoint, more caution and civic maturity is required from all those who manipulate facts and information and who adopt political stances. We are experiencing such dramatic moments that we cannot show carelessness in expressing positions and manipulating information. I believe that the lesson of Tirgu Mures should be a lesson of political maturity for all of us.

"I emphasize this because we are now on the eve of the electoral campaign, which could turn into an opportunity and an occasion for exacerbating the primitive sentiments of some people who could complicate our life. The problems facing Romanian society are already so difficult that we should not allow ourselves such

recklessness. That is why I am making this appeal to our press, regardless of its political color, adopted positions, or the critical points it expounds. Of course, it is a pleasant privilege to criticize the power, the government, and the country's president. This is advantageous for the opposition and the press. However, this criticism can be done in various ways. Let us never forget, however, what binds us all: the national interests of this country. This is where we should start from. Criticism is necessary, as it allows people to think matters over. It is a necessary social corrective. However, this criticism should start from some common and constructive considerations: What must we all do, regardless of our positions, to help to take the country out of this dramatic and difficult situation."

After Mr. Ion Iliescu's statement, the Romanian journalists present at the press conference asked the PNUC president question in connection with the dramatic events in Tirgu Mures. In his answers, he generally emphasized the need to eliminate suspicion and distrust—which currently prevail in the ties among Romanian citizens—from the relations between the majority Romanian population and the Hungarian minority.

Mr. Ion Iliescu also referred to Romania's position vis-a-vis Hungary and to Hungary's position vis-a-vis Romania. "However," he said, "the problem of relations between the Hungarian minority and the majority Romanian population is a matter that should be resolved only by the Romanian state." The president then said: "In judging both the interethnic relations and the relations between the two countries, we should not take into consideration the propaganda of a certain extremist part of the Hungarian emigration, which actually enjoys nobody's support. As a matter of fact, one can also find such elements, which we disapprove of, among the Romanian emigration."

Answering a question about the Tirgu Mures events in the context of the election campaign, President Ion Iliescu said: "Some may or want to draw political advantage from this situation, but this is certainly not fair, because the events were much too painful and have already cast a shadow on the start of the election campaign."

Answering a question on the position and orientation of the National Salvation Front [NSF], Mr. Ion Iliescu said: "Of course, the pragmatic expression of certain NSF positions actually situates the Front on positions close to those characteristic of the social-democratic movements, to the traditions of the socialist movements in Romania, and to the orientations of the West European social democracy of today. Some people suggested that we clarify this aspect more explicitly. The issue is still under discussion. It will probably be examined at the NSF nationwide conference. Personally, I believe that matters cannot be identified exactly. However, a certain approximation can be made. In connection with the NSF adherence to the Socialist International, certain opinions and proposals have been advanced. These viewpoints have not yet been discussed in greater detail. It is possible that this issue will be discussed later. As a matter of fact, we are all at an incipient stage of political organization. There are many formations with programs, structures, and orientations close to those of the NSF. Maybe a fusion and association between several formations will take place even before the elections, leading to a clearer organizational crystallization, which can further stimulate these formations and probably contribute to their taking a more definite form in this respect."

At the end of the meeting with the journalists, Mr Ion Iliescu agreed that the Romanian press is faced with all kinds of hardships, not only of a material nature, but also due to the lack of a normative act to regulate the optimal development of the activity of Romanian journalists.

Roman Discusses Events in Tirgu Mures

LD2803225190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1940 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Interview with Premier Petre Roman by unidentified reporter in Bucharest on 28 March—recorded, in French with superimposed translation into Hungarian]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] Mr. Premier, thank you very much for having been ready to receive the film crew, especially now, in this tense situation. It would be good to review just what has happened. You have appointed a commission, a government commission, which has gone to the scene. This commission, however, had not even arrived in Tirgu Mures when the Romanian Government, and you, too, I think, said there was proof that the Magyar minority stands behind the incidents. Well, how did these things happen?

[Roman] No, I did not claim that the Magyar minority was the one that, so to say, set the tone for the clashes. That is not a question. In the government statement the (?theme) was quite simply the development starting 15 March. I endeavoured to make it understood that in any given moment the Romanian people, the Romanian population in Transylvania, was affected emotionally; it reacted with sensitively. In connection with the 15 March events we saw tens and tens of thousands of people appear. They were not Romanian citizens but Hungarian citizens. Let us add, this was the 1848 anniversary. This occurred in a fairly particular manner. This is an event which can be described as Hungary's national day. This caused the Romanian population to suffer something of a shock, and we have to understand that as well.

From that moment on there were minor incidents. These minor incidents played the role of a spark in a situation which, and I say this sincerely, I did not think would evolve, that it could evolve in that way. So, what I would like to say is that if one has to talk about guilty persons, we are now identifiying them. For the large part we have identified them. As far as the excesses are concerned—what is more, on both sides—these have to be prevented

and legal means have to be used in order that these kinds of clashes can be prevented.

[Reporter] Is it possible to know a little more about who these identified persons are?

[Roman] Well, what I can say is that I have little information relating to this. In other words, we have managed to identify those persons who threw stones and knives into the headquarters of the RMDSZ [Democratic Association of Magyars in Romania] on 19 March. We have also identified those persons who afterward stepped into the headquarters and provoked clashes, a victim of which is the writer Andras Suto, whom incidentally I know very well. We have managed to identify those persons who ransacked the Grand Hotel in Tirgu Mures. We have managed to identify those persons who stopped buses and cars around Tirgu Mures. All this provides a basis for serious work to get under way and for us to place the guilty under indictment.

[Reporter] You have said that you too were surprised by the violence. Andras Suto, however, says that on 17 March he requested from you that the government should intervene, because something was in the offing. Let us say it openly—the Magyars there are saying that things did not begin on 15 March. They had known for a long time that something was going on. We have films that we made in Alba Iulia, where Vatra demanded the death of Tokes and Suto. They said verbatim that if something is already being prepared, then something will also happen.

[Roman] Look, there are certain incidents, isolated situations, such as the one you are talking about. On the other hand, I saw—Transylvanian citizens telephoned me from northern Transylvania, from the counties bordering on County Mures, as a matter of fact from the counties of Covasna and Hargita—verbal clashes there also in connection with the problems of education, the problems of enraged nationalism. Let us say it, appeals were heard in connection with Transylvania belonging to this or that country. Well, these gave the impression that this was quite simply sporadic information [as heard] and it did not in any way look as if the events were connected with each other. We understood only on 15 March that something important might happen.

[Reporter] Would it not have been possible to send out the troops more quickly?

[Roman] I have to tell you that we received a request from the Hungarian ambassador that he might be allowed to go to certain Romanian towns and villages in connection with 15 March. To this we said we had no objection. In the meantime, to a certain extent, we warned the police. But this, too, is something else. On the other hand, one can see that tens of thousands are crossing the border into Romania in thousands of vehicles. This represents a big difference. This too is something else. The fact that Hungarian citizens are appearing en masse with Hungarian flags and propaganda material created a big effect on the Romanians. After all, this represents a big difference. Here, too, we said that, in the last resort it is a question of frictions between the two ethnic groups. Since we were deeply convinced that after the revolution there was, after all, new hope for the resolution of these problems, we said: Things will sort themselves out. Alongside this, we had the police put on alert. I have to tell you that on 19 March there were considerably bigger police forces there than there should have been under normal circumstances.

Apart from this, we called on the Army to intervene. It is obvious that when we had realized that these clashes did not consist simply of people chanting slogans and things like that, but that it was a question of much more serious tidings, the forces of the police and the Army made a mass showing, in order to prevent something even more serious from occurring. The local authorities, epecially in the beginning, did not react with appropriate force, let us say. After this there followed our action, and especially on the evening of the 20th, we managed to prevent something that would have been even more serious. Because in fact there appeared armored cars [pancelosok] and paratroopers, from the Army.

[Reporter] That is precisely the question. They say, for instance, that colonel (Tudea) was there on the scene, and stated that he was the one who had brought Suto out of the building, from the party building, and then left him alone. According to Suto, he was ultimately responsible for the lynching.

[Roman] Tudea?

[Reporter] Yes, Tudea.

[Roman] Look, this is possible. I can also tell you that he is no longer in the Council—for he was a member of the Provisional Council. I think...

[Reporter, interrupting] Was he a military leader as well?

[Roman] No, by no means. He held no military function whatever. He had no responsible position whatever. His political responsibility was considerable; I think he was deputy chairman of the Council. We have heard this accusation, and you have to understand that, since it was the writer Andras Suto who said this, the accusation gains even more weight. Other people have also said this. If this is really how it happened, he can be called to account.

[Reporter] Speaking about national feelings, you said that certain things offended Romanian sensibilities. Only, I have the feeling that in this the information media are to blame. They should have explained to people that 15 March is a festival and by no means anti-Romanian. It is a question of 1848, when there was a revolution throughout Europe, and this is the first time the Magyars were able to celebrate it freely. This is by no means an anti-Romanian festival. In the second place, since 22 December, the appearance of the Romanian flag

in Budapest gives cause for pride. At every demonstration the Romanian flag can be seen. This ought to be told to the Romanians as well.

[Roman] I also feel that this must be done. In a clear and understandable way it must be explained to ordinary people, because you know that this does not have to be explained to the intellectuals. The intellectuals did not take part in the clashes. It has to be explained to the ordinary people, to those who take those old offenses personally, which are still not sufficiently old for people to have forgotten them. They are offenses which in such a period—about which I would not now like to speak at length—cause the Romanians pain, and of which they retain terrible memories. For this reason, I feel that all this must be explained patiently, clearly. As far as the explanation is concerned, I can tell you that yesterday in Cluj they spoke to me about your "Panorama" program. They not only told me that I should not give an interview to "Panorama", but that I should officialy protest against it.

[Reporter] Was it the RMDSZ or Vatra [Romaneasca] which asked you this?

[Roman] Neither one nor the other. They were Romanians, first and foremost inhabitants of Satu Mare, who said that your program, which they have seen, often gave them the impression of being nationalistic. I have never seen your program.

[Reporter] That is a pity. We can send it to you if you wish.

[Roman] The fact that I am here indicates I have no prejudices. I am convinced your program is decent, civilized, and correct. Since we are on this topic, I would ask you to give correct information and that you first and foremost try to explain things.

[Reporter] That is precisely what we are doing. We are open to everyone. We might even invite Vatra. We might talk to them.

[Roman] That is a very good idea, a good idea.

[Reporter] I will give you an example. Our chief editor [Alajos Chrudinak] got a letter yesterday containing a death threat from Vatra Romaneasca, in Budapest. I know that one must not exaggerate this, but when we arrived in Bucharest the day before yesterday, I saw reports on television, in the newsreel, that Hungarians had arrived in Satu Mare. Along with a close-up shot of a bus, I heard the announcement of Panorama and the name of the chief editor. Now, this suggests that, seeing a Romanian bus in Budapest means that we thought it was sent by the Romanian premier.

[Roman] I understand what you mean. Such things do happen. Such associations of ideas are born in the heads of those people who do not really understand political developments. The fact, however, is that these clashes had a very bad effect. The Romanians and the magyar minority, on the one had, got into a delicate situation. One could talk about other fears as well, both on the Magyar and the Romanian side. Yesterday, on the contrary, I had the occasion to hold discussions with the representatives of the RMDSZ and the Vatra. This discussion, this meeting, was begun with the lengthy expose of an outstanding Magyar personality a lawyer from Cluj. Later I also had a conversation with him. At the end of the discussion, I had to note that I was with rational thinking people, and that we have no cause for hostility. I proposed, and I firmly adhere to it, that we should create those political tools which can resolve in a concrete way, and radically, the issue of Hungarian language teaching. Since, as a result of the situation, the solution has been bad. The problem was handled in its entirety. They tried to resolve it at one fell swoop, suddenly, and all at once. They tried to solve the issue of Hungarian language teaching at every level. I think this is not a good method. The good method is where the political tools are not only useful but also effective. Let us reach back to the roots and let us approach the problems in their own concrete details. In this or that place, in this or that school, there are these and those problems. Let us solve these problems. In another place there are other problems. You understand, do you not?

[Reporter] How will you solve the problem in Tirgu Mures and Cluj? There were two Hungarian high schools there.

[Roman] We must strive for a concrete solution. If the conflict cannot be solved through simple dialogue, then discussions must be held with the interested parties. In every conflict situation, whether economic, commercial, social, there are always interests, and these interests are not exclusively national interests in every case, but simply interests. In a case where these interests contradict each other, in the case of cultured people, only discussions are left. Naturally, the education minister has an important role in the solution. He must follow the events, taking into account freedom and minority rights.

[Reporter] Do you acknowledge the rights of minorities?

[Roman] Completely.

[Reporter] Then I do not understand the briefing. Mr. Horn visited Bucharest before the December events, and he stated there—a stance which Hungary has not modified since then either—that Hungary respects the borders and would never raise the question of amending the borders. Now we see that they are starting to say that there are separatists in Hungary, that a possibly dangerous situation is developing here, and even Mr. Sinculescu, said that Romania would defend its integrity, territorial unity, and national sovereignty. My question is, against whom? Who is threatening Romania?

[Roman] Mr. Sinculescu said in his first statement that Romania is not being threatened.

[Reporter] But there was another statement too. (?How) can we evaluate this statement in which it was said that the Army has to defend the country?

[Roman] That was a kind of rhetorical statement, which is not concretely directed at anyone, and is not a reply either. It is a question quite simply of a military manifestation, a statement by a general which is directed to his soldiers and officers, not more.

[Reporter] Except that this manifestation happened at that moment. For example, the notorious Colonel Tudea, who according to you was never a military leader, reviving the Ceausescu era theses, has already declared that the Hungarians wish to attack Transylvania, and so they must prepare for the attack. Well, this is why Sinculescu's statement came at the wrong time.

[Roman] I do not remember, but if the colonel made this statement, then he made it on his own initiative, for this is not at all an official standpoint. If you look over all the statements which we have made, Iliescu or I—I am not talking about the political parties, for this is something else, but about the current political or government leaders—you will never find any such statement. I have never talked about this, and in the letter which we sent to Miklos Nemth or the international organizations, we never mentioned any such thing. On the contrary, as we have already spoken about the events of 22 December, I turned to the Hungarian government with an appeal, in which I wrote: You were with us, you were at our side in the December revolution, and you showed your solidarity. Do the same now. We are in a very difficult situation, and we have very difficult problems to solve. The problems of ethnic tensions make our situation more difficult. We have serious economic losses. Help us to be able to get out of this difficult situation. Do not do this by accusing this or that Romanian person, or group of Romanian people, but by stating that in the final analysis, we are in the same situation, because they have helped up to now, and hopefully will continue to help in the future too.

Austrian Paper's Report of Tirgu Mures 'Unworthy'

AU2803182490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1636 GMT 28 Mar 90

["Transylvania: An Act of Disinformation"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 28/3/1990—Under the above headline, the Bucharest independent newspaper "ADEVARUL" of March 26 reproduces (after the Austrian newspaper "STANDARD" of March 22) an Associated Press news picture whose caption reads: "Romanians clubbing a man to death in the streets of Tirgu Mures."

On the picture the Romanian newspaper comments: "As was proved the man in the Associated Press picture is a Romanian, called Mihai Cofariu, now in a Bucharest hospital, where he is treated for severe wounds." In conclusion, "ADEVARUL" shows: "This is a gross mystification of facts, unworthy of the journalistic profession."

The Associated Press news picture, which the Austrian paper reproduced, shows a dramatic scene which Romanian TV-viewers could see last week: in the middle of a square, a man stretched down on the pavement, in a dead faint, surrounded by various individuals who hit him with their clubs. Investigations conducted by the Mures County Police definitely established the identity of the man molested in the square. He is Mihai Cofariu, 43, a resident of Ibanesti Commune, who suffered cranio-cerebral polytraumatism, a pelvic fracture and multiple wounds from stabs (the knives also penetrated his lungs).

Sibiu Vatra Calls for Rules on Minorities

AU2803184890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1647 GMT 28 Mar 90

["Transylvania: Sibiu Citizens' Proposal to the PNUC and the Government"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 28/3/1990—An appeal sent to the Provisional National Unity council [PNUC] and to the Government of Romania by the citizens of Sibiu Municipality, who gathered in a big civic rally organized by the local branch of the "Vatra Romaneasca" Union, calls for: urgent regulations, under a provisional normative act, on the rights, freedoms and duties of the national minorities to eliminate the confusion of excessive claims, phenomena whereby nationalism is exacerbated, and the tendency to take arbitrary, unjust measures on a local plane. The act should stipulate the following: Romanian is the sole language of the Romanian unitary state; national minorities have the right to cultivate their traditions, customs, art and literature in their mother tongue unhampered, but this does in no way imply special privileges, isolation and separatism, all of which might lead to further actions of instigation, to violence; appointment in and promotion to administrative and managerial posts, admittance to schools and faculties and assignment of specialty jobs in all areas should be exclusively set on competence and value and by no means on criteria having to do with nationality.

The individuals who provoked and committed acts of violence in Tirgu Mures, in Mures County, in the counties of Harghita and Covasna and other counties should be identified, sent to court and exemplarily punished; public opinion should be officially informed on time about all phenomena related to these matters; an end should be put to paternal appeals for conciliation and tolerance on both sides; Hungary's Government should be requested to condemn the reprovable acts committed by the Hungarian citizens who entered Romania's territory on March 15. Furthermore, an end to interference in Romania's affairs and to the revanchist, revisionist propaganda against Romania should be firmly demanded. Rushed decrees and dispositions should no longer be issued. At the same time, a proposal is made to the effect that Romania's National Day should be observed on December 1 the date of the great union.

Efforts for Calm, Normal Activity in Tirgu Mures

AU2803184590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1745 GMT 28 Mar 90

["Transylvania: Calm and Efforts for Normalization in Tirgu Mures"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 28/3/1990—Tuesday [24 March] was a "tightly-packed day" for the Provisional National Unity Council [PNUC] in Tirgu Mures and a "calm day" for the city and county residents. The city police said there had been no ethnic incidents in the previous 24 hours, "ADEVARUL" correspondents report.

"Steps are taken for the situation to return to normal" in Tirgu Mures, the same correspondents said on Monday. Previous direct contacts with officials of the local Provisional Council, the school inspectorate, hospitals and order-keeping bodies showed that "positive developments continue and optimism even if moderate gains further ground."

The local PNUC met representatives of Free Trade Unions and chairmen of administration boards in large county enterprises and decided to "appeal to calm, order and confidence." Work in enterprises resumed, though labour efficiency is still low in a number of units. Political organizations were asked to put an end to their activities in economic units and institutions and the Free Trade Unions were requested to refrain from lodging claims until April 9. During a meeting with school inspectors and representatives of learning units it was agreed that the questions related to the separation of schools should be solved by the parliament and the government to be elected in the May 20 free elections.

The number of people taken to hospitals in Tirgu Mures after the known events dropped to half, that is, less than 60, of which five are in a serious condition and were taken to Bucharest or abroad.

In the meantime, representatives of Romanians and Hungarians met in Tirgu Mures again, under the aegis of the Central Commission that travelled to that county.

Tirgu Mures 'Quiet'; Business Resumes

AU2903065390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1843 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 28/3/1990 —Quiet reigns in Tirgu Mures. The enterprises have resumed their activity, while the residents filled the parks and other recreational areas. The centre of the city saw the liveliness specific to spring days. The streets are cleaned and the trade units and the units in the industrial district carry on normal activities.

As for the activity of the central commission, part of its members returned to Bucharest making room for the members of the two sub-commissions that analyse the causes of the violent actions last week and take measures for the identification of those guilty to hold them responsible.

Campeanu Speaks at Timisoara Commemoration

AU2503145390 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1100 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Report on speech by Radu Campeanu, vice president of the Provisional National Unity Council, in Timisoara on 25 March]

[Text] Today [25 March] Timisoara is commemorating the 100th day of the outbreak of the December 1989 revolution. On this occasion, Mr. Radu Campeanu, vice president of the Provisional National Unity Council, arrived in the city. He participated in the mass meeting organized in Unirii Square. The meeting was attended by more than 10,000 residents of Timisoara and Timis County.

In his speech, Mr. Radu Campeanu once again emphasized the role and importance of the citizens of Timisoara in the outbreak and victory of the December 1989 revolution. Under the current circumstances of the country, he also stressed the importance of the 11 March Timisoara proclamation for uniting all democratic forces in Romania in order to consolidate the victory of the revolution.

In the same context, the participants in the meeting affirmed the unity of all nationalities in order to achieve this priority target of the whole nation.

Then Mr. Radu Campeanu, together with the participants in this meeting, joined the march of silence which took place in Timisoara Municipality in memory of the martyrs of the revolution.

Our co-worker Vasile Emanoil, who provided this piece of news by telephone, specified that this march began with a commemoration at the graveyard for the poor and continued in front of the Timisoara Metropolitan Cathedral.

Asks for 'Tolerance'

AU2603192090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1622 GMT 26 Mar 90

["Transylvania: The National Liberal Party's Stance"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 26/3/1990—In his address during a meeting in Timisoara on Sunday the secretary-general of the National Liberal Party [NLP], Radu Campeanu, referred to recent events in Transylvania and stated for a climate of tolerance and understanding, with the intangibility of Romania's frontiers and the country's national sovereignty observed. The NPL leader also approached a broad spectrum of current issues in the Romanian society, more particularly, questions related to the growth of the national economy.

Statement by the Orthodox Church in Tirgu Mures:

The hierarchs and the faithful of the Orthodox Church in Tirgu Mures made a statement expressing their regret over the incidents in that town, as well as their concern that such incidents might gain ground. The acts of violence committed by extremist elements of the Hungarian minority, as well as the repressive measures taken by a number of Romanian citizens are unacceptable in our opinion, the statement shows. Urging the faithful of the Orthodox Church to show restraint, wisdom and patience, the statement expresses the belief that all issues related to the status of the minorities will be solved by the country's future laws, according to the order of law in the other European countries and in all the civilized states of the world.

Appeal for cooperation and the lessening of tension:

In a statement Academician Stefan Milcu, president of the "Alliance for Peace" organization of Romania, calls on similar organizations in Hungary to cooperate for the lessening of tension in the relations between the two countries and to take part in finding ways conducive to understanding, good neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation.

Blaming the extremist acts and the violence in several Transylvanian towns, in Tirgu Mures in particular, Mr Milcu considers that there should be no room for national conflicts in free Romania, which was born in the wake of the sacrifices of the December 1989 revolution, as they are a mortal threat to our young democracy, a major threat to peace in the area and throughout Europe.

Proclamation of the Cluj-Napoca branch of "Vatra Romaneasca"

At the end of their meeting, which discussed the situation in Transylvania after the dramatic events in Tirgu Mures, the Cluj- Napoca branch of the "Vatra Romaneasca" Union adopted a 12-point proclamation which states their position and attitude. The proclamation expresses regret over the events there and states the need for the promotion of dialogue, as the sole means to solve all disputes. The document shows in conclusion: We wish to live in good neighbourliness with all our neighbours and in brotherhood with all ethnic minorities in Romania. We want the unity of Europe, peace and freedom for all its nations.

Brasov, Iasi Lend Support

AU2603194190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1628 GMT 26 Mar 90

["Political Life: Adhesion to the 'Proclamation of Timisoara'"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 26/3/1990—An impressive number of public, trade-union and political organizations in the town and county of Brasov, whose representatives gathered on March 25, when it was 100 days since the start of the December revolution in Timisoara, decided to support the proclamation which the citizens of the martyr town recently adopted and addressed to the country as a whole. Essentially, the aforesaid document shows that the Romanian revolution of December 1989 was not only anti-dictatorial but also anti-communist in character. In the opinion of the representatives gathered in Brasov, the proclamation of Timisoara is the quintessence of the revolutionary ideals asserted in December 1989 and boasts a historic importance, which is as great as that of the proclamation of Islaz of June 1848.

Demonstration in Iasi.

The same day, a demonstration in support of the Proclamation of Timisoara and protesting against the incidents in Transylvania was staged in the Unirea Square in Iasi.

The demonstration started with a religious service in the memory of the martyr heroes of the revolution in Timisoara, Bucharest and other towns.

The speakers stated for the safeguarding of democracy, for the exposure of the elements who are hostile to the revolution, for the elimination of tension, intimidation and mistrust from the life of the country, for the establishment of a climate of peace and consensus between all those living and working on Romanian soil.

A ceremony was held downtown in Pitesti to pay homage to the heroes of the revolution on the anniversary of 100 days since the start of events in Timisoara—on December 16, 1989—and of three months since the death of post-mortem Army General Vasile Milea, a son of Arges County.

Dec Revolution To Be Marked 31 Mar

AU2803182590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1619 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 28/3/1990—The National Salvation Front [NSF] suggested that the anniversary of 100 days since the victorious December revolution should be solemnly and piously marked on March 31 in ceremonies held in a climate of national understanding and unity, sheltered from party disputes.

The suggestion was made after a city conference of the NSF and a meeting between Mr Ion Iliescu and leaders of the respective movement coordinators of county organizations.

Ministry Advice to Tourists in Bulgaria, Turkey

AU2203205690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1946 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 22/3/1990—The Romanian Foreign Ministry shows in a note to the Romanian news agency AGERPRES [as received] on March 22:

Competent authorities in the Republic of Turkey and the People's Republic of Bulgaria communicated to the

Romanian authorities that a long file of cars belonging to Romanian tourists have waited recently at the entry frontier stations in the two countries and especially at the entry to Turkey, which upset the normal run of the traffic in the respective frontier zone. That called for additional measures.

Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs mentions that that high rise in the number of tourists who wish to visit various countries is the natural consequence of the new regulations endorsed by the Romanian authorities after December 22, 1989 toward translating into law and practice the principle of free flow of persons. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while showing understanding of the steps taken by the authorities in the above-mentioned countries, urges the Romanian citizens to most carefully observe the laws and regulations in force, especially with regard to customs, to behave in a dignified and urbane manner, thus contributing to the development of the friendly relations, to better mutual acquaintance between our countries and peoples.

Also, the Romanian Foreign Ministry expresses the Romanian authorities' readiness to collaborate with the relevant authorities of the two countries in view of taking steps of a nature to ensure a normal traffic through the frontier stations.

Vatican Secretariate Comments on Appointments

AU2303214390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1848 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 23/3/1990—The recent appointments of eleven catholic and Greek catholic Bishops, without consulting the Romanian authorities, and their making public only 24 hours before their publication are based on the fact that the canonic law adopted three years ago by the Vatican Council stipulates such a practice, the Vatican State Secretariate specifies in a statement to the Romanian minister of religious affairs.

Requesting that the appointments of hierarchs in Romania should be understood as made according to the present practice stipulated by the canonic law, the vatican state secretariate also mentions that account was taken of the favourable attitude of the new regime in Romania towards the Catholic Church.

Tokes Meets With Eagleburger, Receives Letter

LD2803112890 Budapest MTI in English 0855 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Washington, March 28 (MTI)—Laszlo Tokes, reformed pastor from Timisoara, Romania, achieved considerable success for the cause of ethnic Hungarians in Romania during his return visit to Washington on Tuesday.

Lawrence Eagleurger, deputy secretary of state, received the Rev. Tokes for a one-hour discussion.

Mr Eagleburger then gave a letter to the Rev. Tokes, who was leaving Washington that day. It reads:

"We recognize the important role you played in national reconciliation, and in creating harmony between all nationalities of Romania.

"We hope you will continue to be able to carry out this role: We would find it very distressing if, in the present confused circumstances, your taking a stand for the legal rights of the Hungarian minority in Romania would in any way endanger your personal safety.

"I am aware that, after you return home, you are to meet with President Iliescu. Please convey to him the deep distress the American Government feels over the violent conflicts which have erupted among the Hungarian communities. Continued violence can only hamper efforts to create a pluralistic, tolerant environment, which is indispensable for the May elections.

"The Romanian Government has given assurances that it will protect the rights of the Hungarian minority, and we take these assurances very seriously," Mr Eagleburger's letter stresses.

From Wednesday, the Rev. Tokes is scheduled to take part at the Geneva conference of the World Council of Churches, which will focus on the situation of the churces in Eastern Europe.

He returns to Romania at the weekend.

Mures County Youth Federation Established

AU2803174090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1607 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 28/3/1990—A meeting was held in Tirgu Mures when the Mures County youth federation was created. The meeting was attended also by the special central commission led by Ion Minzatu, vice-president of the Provisional National Council.

The federation is a representative, decision making body of the youth in Mures County. Its aim is to channel the efforts of the young people in the organizations that were or are to be legally created, to represent their joint interests and options before state power bodies. The federation observes the autonomy of each component organization, all while facilitating mutual knowledge of local Romanians' and Hungarians' spiritual asserts [as received] as well as an openness to world culture.

With a view to developing friendship and cooperation with young people throughout the world the federation intends to help youth organizations in the county contact similar organizations abroad.

Parties Allow Printing of Election Emblems

AU2803184790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1613 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 28/3/1990—Today [28 March] the Romanian press started printing the election emblems of the political parties and organizations entering the race for the general elections due on May 20. The independent newspaper "ADEVARUL," for instance, prints 14 such emblems (of the over 60 registered at the central election commission). We will mention some of them: the emblem of the Ecological Movement (a fir-tree and a heart, symbolizing love for a clean nature); of the Democratic Labour Party (a busy ant); of the National Salvation Front (a budding rose, the symbol of the December revolution); of the National Liberal Party (an upgoing arrow); of the Romanian Christian and Democratic Social Party (a bee); of the Free-Exchange Party (a smiling face and a flower).

In the commentary accompanying the emblems, the newspaper shows that their emergence as true blazons of the election tournament imparts a smile to the stormy political spring in Romania. The rossetes of the fair race were chosen. The beautiful fiesta of democracy can therefore start, the newspaper shows in conclusion.

Repatriated People 'Enjoy All Political' Rights

AU2803193390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1737 GMT 28 Mar 90

["Pro Patria: Rights To Free Flow and Repatriation"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 28/3/1990—The regulations set in Romania after the victory of the December 1989 revolution regarding the persons' free circulation and repatriation have led to a substantial increase in the number of Romanian citizens who travel abroad as well as of the foreign citizens visiting Romania. Many Romanian citizens or former Romanian citizens have been repatriated.

According to these regulations, the persons who are repatriated enjoy all political, economic and social rights laws give to Romanian citizens. These persons can return to their country on the basis of the documents issued by the Romanian diplomatic missions abroad, benefiting by exemption from customs duty for all the goods with which they are repatriated.

In certain states, more particularly in the Hungarian Republic, Austria, Italy, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Greece there is a relatively large number of Romanian citizens who left their country to settle abroad. If they wish to be repatriated they can apply to the Romanian diplomatic missions or consular offices in the respective states.

Showing understanding for the reasons that made certain states to take restrictive measures as regards the Romanian citizens' travels (Austria decided the temporary and partial suspension of the visa cancellation accord, while Bulgaria and Turkey took measures to control the number of Romanian citizens who go through or visit those states, as well as customs duty), the Romanian authorities called on all Romanian citizens to observe the laws and regulations in force in the respective countries contributing, this way too, to developing friendly ties and better mutual knowledge.

Three New Parties Register in Bucharest

AU2803184690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1758 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 28/3/1990—Three new parties have been registered this week at the Bucharest City Tribunal taking the total number of political parties in Romania to 64. The three new groupings are: the "Tara Oasului" Democratic Union based in the town of Negresti, Str Victoriei No. 9[illegible], Satu Mare County; the Labour Party, and the Homeland's Democratic Future Party, both headquartered in Bucharest.

Stoica, Vatasescu New Deputy Prime Ministers

AU2803190990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1840 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 28/3/1990—During the 28 March meeting of the Executive Bureau of the Provisional National Unity Council, at the proposal of Prime Minister Petre Roman, Ion Aurel Stoica and Anton Vatasescu were appointed deputy prime ministers.

Soviet Embassy News Conference Held 27 Mar

AU2803105090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1851 GMT 27 Mar 90

["Official News—News Conference at the Soviet Embassy"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 27/3/1990—Since the Romanian December revolution, the Soviet-Romanian relations have successfully developed in all domains, stated the ambassador of the Soviet Union to Bucharest, Y.M. Tyazhelnikov, during a news conference at the embassy. Referring to the evolution of bilateral economic exchanges, the ambassador specified that this year the USSR would additionally deliver to Romania one million tons of coal, 576 million kwh, 115 million cu.m. of natural gas, considerable quantities of steel and aluminium rolled goods, non-ferrous metal and other products in exchange of Romanian machinery and equipment, cement, fittings, and others. In point of value, the total volume of additional exchanges will amount to 180 million roubles. The head of the Soviet diplomatic mission also pointed to the intensified contacts and collaboration in culture just as in other spheres of mutual interest.

Lithuanian Situation Becoming 'Aggravated'

AU2903145090 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Report by Mihajlo Saranovic, TANJUG correspondent in Moscow]

[Text] The situation in and around Lithuania is becoming more complicated and has been further aggravated. Its parliament called on Army deserters today to hide themselves in temples and hospitals so Soviet military authorities would not find them. Automatic rifles, submachine guns, and pistols are being secretly sold at markets and, despite the ban from Moscow, the enrollment of volunteers to defend Lithuania is continuing.

Moscow is paying back in kind. Troop movements are obviously continuing. The whole month of April will probably be devoted to military exercises at the level of detachment [ceta] and battalions, which means that there will be many more such movements.

The Army is present in the capital, Vilnius, too. An airborne regiment [desantni puk] had entered the city and its section is protecting the building of the party Centrai Committee, because it was arrogated by the party that seceded from the CPSU Central Committee.

Although these several elements would suffice to illustrate the seriousness of the situation, the whole picture of the situation's complexity so far is best shown when one adds here that Latvia has offered the services of its militiamen who volunteered to go to Lithuania.

Some Ukraine nationalist leaders say that this populous Soviet republic, one of the foundations of the federation, will follow the Lithuanian way.

'Unexpected' GDR Election Results Viewed

AU2803121090 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 20 Mar 90 p 2

[Zarko Rakic commentary: "German Surprise"]

[Text] The Germans have once again surprised the world. The conservatives have triumphed at the parliamentary elections in the GDR, the first free voting by the East Germans after four decades of Communist Party rule. The right-wing "Alliance for Germany" convincingly—and for forecasters, unexpectedly—defeated their left-wing electoral opponents.

In the first analyses of the conservatives' convincing victory, it is difficult to discern all and even the weakest reasons for the GDR electorate to vote in this way. However, some conclusions cannot be avoided.

In the first place, it is indisputable that the East German population was fed up with the system that had been constructed over four decades in the GDR in the name of socialism. The East Germans turned their backs on the one-party dictatorship and its corrupt leadership that abused power for years while making itself rich at the expense of the state.

The people in the GDR also found life in the shadow of the Iron Curtain and the constant surveillance by the special police unbearable. The fact that only pensioners could travel to the West had a wearing and depressing effect; radio and television stations from the other side of the border between the Germanies were received in the greatest secrecy.

The authorities served up a false picture of national prosperity and social welfare for the public. Economic errors, the country's serious difficulties, debts, and backwardness compared with the world were concealed.

A special role in the surprise vote for conservatives on the East Germans' part was played by their compatriots in the West. The FRG openly interfered in the East German election campaign; all political parties generously helped their sister parties or political partners in the East. The person to profit most was West German Chancellor Kohl, who promised heaven and earth and, above all, full pockets to the East Germans on the other side of the Elbe.

The question of German unification also played an important and more of a psychological rather than practical role. All those in the electoral campaign who advocated patience, gradualism, and equality in the unification issue did badly in the 18 March elections. The victory of the conservatives also means that most East Germans nowadays support unification with the FRG without great negotiations and a long procedure.

It should finally be said that the elections in the GDR were held at a bad time, at least as far as the left-wing parties are concerned. Not much time has passed since the period of Honecker's rule, the wounds are still fresh, and the voters did not have enough time to forget the mistakes that were made at that time.

The conservatives' electoral triumph, nevertheless, does not mean that all East German problems are about to be solved. For example, a two-thirds majority is necessary in the newly elected parliament for a decision to be adopted on unification with the FRG. This means that the right wing will have to offer a hand of cooperation to an ideologically opposing group—probably the Social Democrats. One should also not ignore the relative success of the Party of Democratic Socialism (which sprouted from the foundations of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany), whose 65 representatives could represent serious opposition.

The elections in the GDR produced unexpected results. The present situation within and between the Germanys is very complicated and new German surprises are therefore possible.

Korosec's Suitability as Ambassador Questioned

AU2903102490 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 16 Mar 90 p 2

[S. Aleksandric commentary: "Can Korosec Become Ambassador?"]

[Text] After Marko Orlandic and Josip Vrhovec, it is now Stefan Korosec's turn. Korosec is the former secretary of the Central Committee Presidium of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia and Slovenia's candidate for the position of the SFRY's ambassador to Portugal. As is known, the first two were not candidates to the liking of the broadest Yugoslav public, and were therefore dropped from the race. It was others that were sent as ambassadors to Pyongyang and Helsinki.

Is Korosec—who, together with some of his comrades from the northwest parts of our country, contributed considerably to the breaking up of Yugoslavia, and especially to the deterioration of the situation in Kosovo—really the right man to represent the SFRY in Portugal?

In many people's view he is not. Of course, there are also different views, but mainly in Slovenia and Croatia. A SFRY ambassador, regardless of the country he is posted to, should represent the interests of the whole of Yugoslavia and not only parts of it. In addition to a range of qualities that every candidate should have (knowledge of languages, competence, and so forth), a candidate must surely possess the minimum patriotic feelings, that is, feelings for Yugoslavism, which is something, many people believe, Stefan Korosec does not have. The pronounced loyalty to one narrow region is the least-desired thing, even a counter-recommendation for somebody who is standing for an ambassadorial post.

Unfortunately, in our diplomatic practice we have had (and still have) ambassadors who used their posts to promote the interests of their own community at the expense of Yugoslavia's. We have also had ambassadors who were working directly against the interests of some of our republics, and even against Yugoslavia's interests. We need only to recall the negative attitudes of some individuals in our consular-diplomatic office in Australia toward Serbia's public loan. A few years ago, we had the "case of Kenya" where our ambassador (who just happened to be a Slovene) directed all activities toward Ljubljana, neglecting—even preventing—economic ties with other parts of Yugoslavia. We have had enough of this kind of ambassador! We need capable and qualified people who are not burdened by "their own community" but think, above all, about Yugoslavia as a whole. In particular, under the present conditions, they are required to protect the generally acceptable Yugoslav interests, including, of course, the official view of the SFRY Presidency on the situation in Kosovo. Can Stefan Korosec be the right interpreter of Yugoslav wishes and interests? We have many reasons to doubt this.

Some people obviously still hold the view that an ambassadorial post is either a reward or a punishment. We do not know which one of these was the basis for the Socialist Republic of Slovenia's proposal of Stefan Korosec as Yugoslavia's ambassador to Portugal; but regardless of everything, it is certain that, after investing tremendous efforts to refute the assertion about the so-called unprincipled coalition, life in beautiful and sunny Lisbon would be comfortable. However, this too does not have to be quite so certain because, if the majority of Yugoslavs do not find Korosec to their liking as ambassador, perhaps he would not appeal to Portugal either.

Judging by what Milivoje Maksic, deputy federal secretary for foreign affairs, said in the SFRY Assembly on 14 Mar, it appears that the decision on this ambassadorial post has entered the "final stage." Diplomacy is, it is claimed, like flying—after taking off one can go very high, but a fall cannot be discounted either. Considering that Stefan Korosec is considered to be an excellent pilot, he must know for sure that in flying, this initial stage of taking off is the most critical, and that sometimes it is better to stop the engines before taking off. The risk is then considerably smaller.

Rights Delegation Examines Poisoning Claims

LD2803201290 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1854 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Belgrade, March 28 (TANJUG)—Programme director of the Helsinki Federation for Human Rights Hester Minnema said here on Wednesday that there was no evidence of any use of chemical substances in causing an alleged mass poisoning of ethnic Albanian population in Yugoslavia's province of Kosovo last week. However, she did not rule out that possibility.

Mrs Minnema told a press conference at the end of the delegation's visit to Yugoslavia that its team of medical experts did not succeed in establishing the causes of the alleged poisoning. She said that only one in five patients examined ad hoc was actually ill, and that the same impression was made by only one in 30 to 50 patients whose admission to hospital was filmed with videocamera.

In Mrs Minnema's view, Yugoslav health authorities have failed to take adequate measures to establish the causes of the illness. Patients had not been isolated in time, nor had a team of top specialists—bacteriologists, virusologists, epidemiologists and toxicologists—been appointed at once to analyze the causes of the "poisoning." (A team of experts sent by the Yugoslav Public Health Ministry to Kosovo the day after the "epidemic broke out," when patients were still being admitted to hospital, stated officially that there was no evidence of poisoning.)

President of the Helsinki federation Karl Von Schwarzenberg today said he was pleased by the fact that

it was made possible for the delegation to move completely freely and meet whoever it wanted to. In his view, however, the "use of force (in Kosovo) has been intensified" compared with last year, when the same delegation was also in Yugoslavia.

Members of the delegation set out the findings of medical experts who established, after examining 102 wounded participants of ethnic Albanian demonstrations, that many of them were shot in the back or head. Some were hit with high-velocity or expanding (also called dum-dum) bullets, it was stated. It was not said who fired the bullets, which are not used for quieting demonstrations, while the use of dum-dum bullets is banned even for military purposes.

According to the federation delegates, the ethnic conflict in Kosovo can be settled through a dialogue, to which—in their view—the recent setting up of alternative movements from members of both nationalities can contribute. They stressed, however, that neither side—and they contacted both—had outlined a strategy including dialogue as a means to settle [words indistinct] dialogue as a means to settle the conflicts in the province.

Some journalists objected to the delegation for having failed to pay sufficient attention to the sufferings of Kosovo's minority Serb and Montenegrin populations who are harassed by Albanian separatists. (It is even claimed that the alleged poisoning was a pretext for physical attacks on Serbs and Montenegrins.)

Von Schwarzenberg replied that he did not know enough of that because the Serb representatives he met in Kosovo had failed to show him documents and substantiating those claims.

Pristina Doctors Not Willing To Talk to Press

AU2803143190 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 27 Mar 90 p 1

[S.Dz. report: "Silence According to Agreement"]

[Text] Pristina—The dean's office of the Medical Faculty in Pristina did not issue any official information on 26 March. Aljus Gasi, dean of the faculty and president of the doctors' council (about which it is not known whether it still exists or not), informed (through his secretary) curious journalists that there will be no news conference.

During the conversation with Dean Gasi's secretary, we learned that some "poisoned" people are still at the clinics of the Medical Faculty, but that we must seek information about their number and the treatment they are receiving from the clinics' directors. They, probably according to an "agreement," were not willing to make any statements to the press either.

Kosovo Interior Secretary Wants To Retire

AU2903070390 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] It has been officially confirmed in Pristina that Jusuf Karakusi, provincial secretary for internal affairs, has submitted a request to be relieved of his duties in order to retire. Karakusi has met the legal requirements for retirement and his request will most probably be discussed at the next session of the Kosovo Assembly.

Karakusi, Zejnalahu Resignations Rumored

AU2903095090 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 26 Mar 90 p 1

[R.I. report: "What Is the Truth?"]

[Excerpts] Zagreb—Calm seemed to prevail in Kosovo on 25 March. After the Socialist Republic of Serbia Presidency had taken the decision on 24 March that the Republican Secretariat for Internal Affairs of Serbia should take over the defense of the constitutional order and the protection of citizens' personal safety in Kosovo—which some people interpreted as a suspension of the provincial Secretariat for Internal Affairs—2,500 members of the republican militia arrived in the southern province on 25 March.

The possibility was also mentioned of Jusuf Karakusi, secretary of the provincial Secretariat for Internal Affairs, and provincial government President Jusuf Zejnalahu submitting their resignations in the next few days. While all official sources of information in Kosovo remained silent, it was nevertheless known that forums were continually holding sessions behind closed doors. "Well-informed circles" say that a special directorate for Kosovo was set up a few days ago with as yet unknown powers. [passage omitted]

"Not one of the 400 patients who have been treated in our clinic since 22 March had symptoms of infection," stated Professor Kajmak Gazideda at the Infections and Neuro-psychiatric Clinic of the Pristina Medical Faculty. "However, clinical findings indicate that the vegetative nervous system was affected, leading to giddiness." Prof. Jusuf Dedusaj from the same clinic added "that this is not some kind of epidemic caused by bacteria or virus, but ailments on a mass scale with an unknown cause."

The director of the aforementioned clinic, Prof. Vojislav Trajkovic, said in a statement for TV Novi Sad that "psycho-reactive induced states had been established for the majority of patients. These states cannot be faked nor can they be simulated because these are unconscious reactions. Young people are susceptible to these states because they are frustrated and they feel uncertainty, fear, and anxiety; so only disinformation or the sight of one patient whose neuro-vegetative system has been affected is sufficient for this state to be induced, that is to say, for them to get into this psycho-reactive state and to

be affected by an induced convulsive neuroses that imitates virtually any physical ailment."

Kosovo LC Provincial Presidium Statement

LD2803092890 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1840 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Pristina, 27 Mar (TANJUG)—At today's session, the Kosovo League of Communists [LC] Provincial Committee Presidium established, as stated this evening, the draft document "The Basic Orientations of the Kosovo LC as the Party for Democratic Socialism." The next session of the provincial committee, scheduled for 6 April, will discuss the document.

The battle for a joint life of equal and free people in Kosovo, the document emphasizes, is a permanent orientation of the Kosovo LC, which will advocate that all deep and grave consequences of sepratistic activity of Albanian nationalists, most prominent in the long-lasting process of the emigration of Serbs and Montenegrins, as well as of Muslims, Croats, Turks, and others from their ancestral homes, are wiped out as soon as possible.

Under the condition of the democratization of social processes and free competition of programs and ideas, the Kosovo LC would champion the ideas of progress, work, and creativity, and on this basis will make efforts to be an integrational force of social, economic, national and overall development of the province. The Kosovo LC should become a democratic and efficient organization in which every member will express freely his/her views, convictions and intentions, and will invest efforts in their unobstructed realization.

The Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo within the Socialist Republic of Serbia and the SFRY provide the future for all nations and nationalities living there. All our actions will be in the interest of political stabilization, peace, freedom, and equality for all citizens, the document stresses. [passage omitted]

As cited later in the statement, the Kosovo LC Provincial Committee Presidium analyzed the problem of the dwindling party membership and stated that this phenomenon was most prominent in February and at the beginning of March of this year, and since then, the process has slowed down. Out of the total of 105,686 members of the Kosovo LC recorded at the end of last year, almost 21,500 Albanians left the party, and about 3,000 announced that they would do the same. Dwindling membership is most prominent in small municipalities with mostly Albanian population. [passage omitted]

Apart from the fact that the drop in the LC membership in conditions of its transformation, current developments in our society, and the situation that has been created in Kosovo is a process that could have been expected, the Presidium made the assessment that during the past and the current month this process had unfolded in an organized manner and that the forces involved in it are committed to the further destabilization of the situation in the province. This is pointed to by the fact that, by and large, the members were leaving the LC as a group or collectively and in most cases simultaneously in several areas, and also that the reasons given are very similar or entirely identical. [passage omitted]

Albanians Without Citizenship To Be Resettled

LD2803130190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1132 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Belgrade, March 28 (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia plans to withdraw hospitality to Albanians who had come from Albania and settled in Yugoslavia, but have since refused the Yugoslav citizenship, Serbian Minister of the Interior Dr. Radmilo Bogdanovic stated.

At a press conference yesterday in Belgrade Bogdanovic indicated that on the basis of this criteria, more than 700 Albanians could shortly leave the country.

In Kosovo Province, a part of the Republic of Serbia, some 90 per cent of the population are ethnic Albanians. Among them the Albanian separatist movement is active.

Claims here are that Albanian settlers have largely contributed to the growth of Albanian separatism. Official estimates are that currently 150,000 Albanian settlers live in Yugoslavia, but it is claimed that close to 300,000 Albanians settled in Kosovo since the World War II.

As a signatory of international conventions Yugoslavia will enable Albanian settlers to find a country which will take them. Failing this, Yugoslavia will first ask the country from which they had originally come if it wants to take them, and then the U.N. High Commissioner's Officer for Refugees, Bogdanovic said.

Market Inspector on Serbian-Slovene Dispute

AU2803123990 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 21 Mar 90 p 1

[P. Tasic report: "Boycott of Slovenia—Violation of Economic Regulations"]

[Text] Belgrade—The Federal Market Inspectorate has established that out of 38 enterprises and trade organizations that had been inspected in Serbia, 26 of them "broke off or reduced the extent of business relations with Slovene partners by sending a telex message, or by returning goods, or without saying anything at all." In view of this violation of business regulations, the Federal Market Inspectorate filed 33 charges with the respective district prosecution offices in Serbia. This was stated at the news conference in the Federal Executive Council on 20 March by Chief Federal Market Inspector Bozidar Ivetic.

Non-Binding Ties

So far checks have been carried out in 58 organizations (38 in Serbia and 20 in Slovenia). Inspectors have established that the majority of enterprises did not possess cooperation contracts and that business relations were maintained on the basis of orders, order agreements, and similar non-binding documents. So, out of 1,290 cases only in 266 was cooperation regulated through contracts. The rest were dependent on other "informal" forms.

There is also some encouraging news, Ivetic said. It has been established that after a break, business cooperation has resumed in 164 cases, of which only 66 were bound by contracts. Moreover, there are indications that economic interests are prevailing over political blindness. As an example, Ivetic mentioned the case of a Belgrade firm, Nada Stark, that reduced the purchases of packing material from Paracin and placed orders with a Ljubljana firm because it has offered a better price.

Rejecting Customers

Answering the question of whether the inspectors had asked the directors of Serbian firms as to why they had broken off their cooperation with Slovene organizations, and whether anybody had asked them to do that, Ivetic said that the main reasons for severing links were: the refusal of customers in Serbia to buy Slovene goods, difficulties in promoting goods caused by high prices, and the acceptance of the Serbian Socialist Alliance's recommendation to impose a blockade of the Slovene economy.

Market inspectors, as stated, will continue with checks.

Serbia's Bogdanovic on Control in Kosovo

LD2803165190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1448 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Pristina, 28 Mar (TANJUG)—The decision of the Serbian Socialist Republic [SR] Presidency regarding the protection of the constitutionally established order and the safety of person and property of all citizens in Kosovo is being implemented according to the plan. There can be no dilemma about this, Radmilo Bogdanovic, republican secretary for internal affairs of the Serbian Socialist Republic, stated to TANJUG today in Pristina.

Bogdanovic stressed that the Serbian Secretariat for Internal Affairs took over security tasks in all places [in Kosovo] without exception. We are completely prepared and equipped for efficient activity and for carrying out relevant tasks. All Serbs and Montenegrins, as well as other Kosovo citizens who were in any way endangered by the activity of Albanian nationalists and separatists, can rest assured they will enjoy our timely and full protection, the republican secretary for internal affairs, Radmilo Bogdanovic, said.

Asked by TANJUG journalists what is happening in Kosovo in terms of security, Radmilo Bogdanovic said Kosovo is relatively peaceful and the republican Secretariat for Internal Affairs and security forces are in complete control. Bogdanovic is convinced this will become even more evident in the next few days.

Today in Kosovo, Bogdanovic stated, there are no major disturbances, except gatherings in Korisa village, where almost 700 Albanian schoolchildren were dispersed without the use of force. However, Bogdanovic noted, there are some phenomena that could be characterized as the continuation of the resistance to the measures that the SR of Serbia, primarily, is undertaking on the normalization of the situation in the province. Today, for instance, machines in some work organizations were stopped and Albanian employees observed a minute's silence. It was recorded that some [Serbian] flags were burned and some disappeared. The situation in schools is like on 27 March, that is, it is not yet normalized, Radmilo Bogdanovic, Serbian secretary for internal affairs, informed TANJUG.

Slovene Opposition Unveils Election Platform

LD2803095890 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1832 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Ljubljana, 27 Mar (TANJUG)—If it wins in the forthcoming elections, the United Slovene Opposition [SDZ] does not promise it will ensure overnight a better life for Republic of Slovenia citizens. What it promises them is several years of hard work, the breakup of many big enterprises, and general economic difficulties immediately after the elections. However, as stressed at the afternoon SDZ convention on the independence of the republic, it promises a very restrictive program of improvement of the economic system. It also offers "the first genuine Slovene constitution" that should be adopted solely by a referendum. Should they win, not a single stone of the existing political system of the state setup will remain.

According to Dr. Marko Kos, first of all, with rare exceptions, inept and uninventive management teams in the enterprises should be replaced, a moratorium on bank claims introduced, and an efficient system of social protection set up. Crisis headquarters and industrial development agencies should be set up in the municipalities; a public loan is to be issued, social ownership abolished, and big enterprises divided among several smaller ones. The conditions for building an economic system based on market principles and within the framework of an independent Slovenia will be created only after that.

According to Dr. Rajko Pirnat, this Slovenia will have its own currency, army, and foreign ministry, and the basis of its political system will be the constitution whose draft was presented today. According to its text, the Republic of Slovenia is the state of the Slovene people and all its citizens, based on the sovereignty of the Slovene nation. Its banner will be white, blue, and red and without the

star, which is how it was raised today. Its lands and other natural and cultural riches will be under special state protection, which will have to restrict their acquisition and use by law. In addition to details about the rights and freedoms of the people, and about radical changes in the existing commune system, in this text the united opposition, that is the SDZ, advocates a state system in which a 120-deputy state parliament [Drzavni Zbor] will replace the present Assembly. The Presidency will be abolished and the office of president of the republic with a seven-year term of office and relatively extensive powers will be introduced.

Slovene Opposition Wants Troops Out

AU2803130790 Paris AFP in English
1211 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Belgrade, March 28 (AFP)—Five opposition parties in Yugoslavia's northwestern republic of Slovenia Wednesday presented a joint programme to get federal troops out of the republic.

One of the leaders concerned, Marko Hren, told Agence France-Presse that the policy arose in the view that Slovenia could not be a fully "sovereign" region if there were Yugoslavian troops on its soil.

The opposition parties—the Democrats, Greens, Liberals, Peace Movement and Independents List for New Social Movements—are widely expected to bring down the communist government in the republic when its holds it first free elections on April 8.

Slovenian nationalists have long been campaigning for an army independent of federal control, while other opposition groups have been calling for demilitarization.

Slovene Presidential Candidates' Views

AU2803111990 Ljubljana DELO in Slovene
24 Mar 90 pp 20-21

[Interview with Marko Demsar, Ivan Kramberger, Milan Kucan, and Joze Pucnik, candidates for president of the Republic of Slovenia Presidency, by Janko Lorenci in Ljubljana; date not given: "Candidates More Important than the Office for Which They Are Running"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Lorenci] All the main Slovene parties now support a confederation, but this remains a rather unclear idea. Kucan and Pucnik, for instance, reached it by somehow opposite ways: While Kucan proceeded from a federation to a confederation, Pucnik proceeded from secession to a confederation.

[Pucnik] This is simplified. I have proceeded from the federation being untenable, from the request some years ago that one should again negotiate the rules of the game in the federation, from a resolute request that only a confederation is realistic for Slovenia, in the sense that a confederation maintains only some consultative bodies. All the legislative powers must rest in Slovenia. The opinion now prevails in Slovenia that we cannot go on in the same way. The fact that the Slovene Assembly adopted the budget for 1990 is quite incomprehensible. In yesterday's DELO, Viktor Zakelj complained about the increase of Slovenia's payments to the federation. It is awful that a representative of the party that is in power and that has had a majority in the parliament speaks like that. Why should Slovenia not say no? This is the background. There is no other possibility but a resolute implementation of Slovene independence and sovereignty, while being ready to cooperate and to strengthen the present real relations, but only voluntarily and as an equal partner.

[Kramberger] What if it will not do? Would you resign or would you continue to struggle?

[Pucnik] We must carry this through.

[Kramberger] And if they continue to block and to throw spanners in the works, and our children must continue to serve the Army down there? Will you still say confederation or will you ultimately say: This is the end!

[Pucnik] Of course, the end! A referendum, a new constitution, and finished.

[Kucan] My point of departure is that Yugoslavia is a state that the Slovenes have contributed to building and that it is therefore our responsibility, too. I do not support the thesis that would write off Yugoslavia a priori, but I do not support the thesis that would want to preserve Yugoslavia regardless of its quality, either. The policy that offers only one choice leads sooner or later to ultimatums, and these usually end in violence. Resistance to Yugoslavia, which is not able to live through the crisis in a democratic way, is growing almost everywhere. A confederate position of Slovenia does not prejudice Slovenia, nor does a possible democratic federation, or a confederation, or secession. From this position, all kinds of solutions are possible, because it makes a free and sovereign decision possible on one's own fate. I would consider it a capitulation if a position would write off Yugoslavia in advance without trying to find democratic partners in other republics, particularly since democratization has been running in an accelerated and irresistible way in all the republics. Slovenia has set off these processes; should it now turn its back on them? In addition, secession—which is an expression of the natural right to self-determination—would trigger off severe political conflicts. Many reasonable people speak about the danger of civil war and extreme interventions. In my opinion, the reasons for an extremely rejecting attitude toward Yugoslavia have been somewhat reduced. I would still first check the possibilities for life together with people who obtain their mandate at free elections. Our confederate position is clear and we admit it to all others. It makes possible a sovereign decision for one form or another, including secession as an ultimate possibility.

[Lorenci] Do you, Dr. Demsar, think that the Lithuanian road is necessarily in store for Slovenia, which is to say unilateral faits accomplis?

[Demsar] We are all tensely waiting for the denouement of the Lithuanian problem. An armed conflict, violence against people, is not a form of civilized solving of problems. I firmly hope that Yugoslavs will know how to avoid such a thing. I am encouraged by the fact that the vision of democracy is spreading from Slovenia toward the southeast so that we will obtain legitimate discussion partners relatively soon. In this sense, I think that we will after all have a unified [enoten] state and within it an autonomous, independent [samostojen, neodvisen] Slovenia. I see an independent Slovenia with an independent taxation policy, a unified monetary policy, and set quotas to be paid to the federation, and not with a constant flow of money toward the south. I do not believe that we would push ourselves into a confederation that would demand blood.

[Pucnik] The demand for an independent Slovenia is a result of an assessment of the actual political and material situation in Slovenia. An existential necessity demands of us that we free ourselves of this financial burden, economic extortion, saber rattling, and the incessant threats. We live in an atmosphere of a "Balkan statehood," in which shrewd negotiations in favor of the south of the state (this includes the Markovic program) are mixed up with gross and more refined threats, so that I keep asking myself: Are we really an occupied province, must we fear our own Army, our own federal state? If this is so, one should face facts and begin a liberation movement. If it is not so, one should merely carry out a policy in Slovenia that is not against the interests of one's own people. The burden imposed on Slovenia is terrible. Zakelj says that it increased 87 percent this year. This is unbelievable and who is responsible for this, politically and legally, and who dares to adopt such an unbearable robbery budget? If one does not veto it, if this cannot be done, the Slovene Government must resign and it must tell the people that it is yielding to force. What should we think about such a government and such a party that treats Slovene material interests in such a way?

[Kucan] Mr. Pucnik uses very sharp words. Perhaps this, too, is a way of political life. I prefer to look at the content. Lithuania: there are similarities and differences. The legal basis for Lithuania's contesting its membership in the USSR is the treaty with which it became a part of it; one knows in which way it did so. Lithuania was not a founding member of the USSR, it joined later. That the question of independence could be posed at all—and here I see a similarity—is a consequence of the democratization in the USSR. If Lithuania would not cause a chain reaction of disintegration in the USSR in general, it probably would not be such a great problem for the USSR because the USSR would still be the USSR without it, to put it simply. However, there would have been no Yugoslavia without Slovenia; Yugoslavia would not have arisen without it, and the departure of Slovenia would mean that Yugoslavia ceases to exist. This relationship is therefore essentially different.

Independence, sovereignty, confederation: it is clear that there is no economic sovereignty without them. Therefore, the relations among the republics should be based on clear accounts. This is an old problem that has not been solved because the system allows various transfers. It allows them because Yugoslavia is not a state governed by the rule of law. The outlook of the questions that Mr. Pucnik justifiably poses will be essentially different if the rule of law prevails in Yugoslavia instead of the opposite, when the law justifies a party and ideological power. This is the practice that we have stood against, when decisions were made in fact by the League of Communists of Yugoslavia Central Committee and formally by the Assembly. In this context, the reform of the federal finances is for me a key part of the reform of the economic system. Therefore, we have long been advocating fixed quotas as a basic principle. In other words: These are the interests that tie us together, they cost so much, and this is the contribution of the republic. The criterion for this contribution should probably be a combination of the republican social product and the number of the population. This state of ours is still political in its basic characteristics and is, of course, also incompetent, ineffective, and expensive. This applies at the Yugoslav and the Slovene levels. To decide on the natural wealth and income is, of course, a sovereign right of each people.

[Demsar] Would it not make sense to think about some kind of a Yugoslav economic community with equally crystal-clear, European yardsticks? To find something that would be honest to all the members? Whoever is the president, it will be the parliament that will say: Slovenia will go along such and such road.

[Pucnik] To wait for Yugoslavia to become a rule-of-law state is completely illusory. Secondly: the contribution is apportioned according to the national income.... Who apportions it? Who has consented to this law? Who has not vetoed it? These are the questions that should be posed, rather than hoping that the rule of law will eventually prevail in Yugoslavia.

[Kramberger] We are talking only about the confederation, the state... but we do not talk about the economy that is completely ruined. The representatives that are to be elected do not include any engineers, only some writers have been proposed. I say that we should have experts in the leadership, as well as women. [passage omitted]

Slovene Poll on Parties, Candidates

AU2803141690

[Editorial Report] Ljubljana DELO in Slovene on 24 March on pages 1 and 3 carries an 800-word report by Slava Partlic on election prospects revealed by a telephone poll "carried out by DELO Contact Service among 567 citizens of Slovenia on 21 and 22 March" under the title, "The Public About Candidates."

The report contains the following passage, containing figures as published:

"As regards elections to the republican and communal assemblies, many people still do not know for which party or candidate they would cast their vote (37 percent for the republican, and 45 percent for the communal assemblies). Those who have decided how they will vote distributed the deputies seats in the republican assembly as follows: They give the most to the Greens (21.5 percent), to the ZSMS [former initials of the Socialist Youth Federation of Slovenia]-Liberal Party (20.6 percent), the Slovene Democratic Alliance (17.6 percent), the Slovene Peasant Alliance (15.7 percent), the LCS [former initials of the League of Communists of Slovenia]-Party of Democratic Reform (15 percent), the Social Democrats (14.5 percent), the Christian Democrats (9.3 percent), the Gray Panthers (8.8 percent), the Socialist Alliance, and the Slovene Craftsmen Party (7.2 percent). All the other parties received from 1.9 to 0.4 percent of votes of our respondents."

Other results of the poll are presented in three bar charts, which again contain figures as published.

Chart 1: "Which of the candidates for the president of the Presidency will you vote for?"

	14-15 Mar	21-22 Mar
Demsar	4 percent	6.4 percent
Kramberger	5.6	7.1
Kucan	37	41.4
Pucnik	11.9	12.8
Don't know	39.9	26.6
None	-	3.7
Will not vote	1.6	1.6

Chart 2: "The voters would distribute their votes among the candidates for the Presidency members as follows:"

The chart contains no exact figures and the percentages indicated by the lengths of the respective bars can be read only approximately against the scale at the bottom of the chart.

	14-15 Mar	21-22 Mar
M. Kmecl	17 percent	13 percent
F. Miklavcic	3	4
I. Oman	13	9
D. Plut	7	6.5
D. Rupel	8	9
B.M. Zupancic	5	6
C. Zlobec	17	19
P. Novak	6	5
M. Gec-Korosec	4	5
A. Krizman	6	7
B. Oblak	5	6
S. Zizek	8	8

Chart 3: "Please say which part of the elections is most important for you personally?"

For the president of the Presidency	34.6 percent
For members of the Presidency	9.1
For deputies to the republican assembly	21.3
For deputies to the communal assembly	5.4
All equally important	22.9
Don't know, not interested	6.6

Croat Parties Complain of Campaign 'Obstacles'

AU2803203190 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Twenty days before the elections in Croatia, a meeting with party leaders was held in the Republican Presidency. Here is a slightly unusual report by Vesna Knezevic:

[Begin Knezevic recording] After an attempt to assassinate Croatian Democratic Community leader Franjo Tudjman was made in Benkovac—with a gun that the security organs claim was a gas pellet gun and the party leadership that it was real, after the Croatian Assembly expressed its indignation about the slow reaction of the Republican Government, and after the opposition directed vociferous accusations against Premier Markovic's firm Yugoslav-oriented policy, it seems that the preelection campaign in Croatia has entered a stage in which everything is possible.

It seems that the Presidium, an organ that, according to the Constitution, is in charge of security, has concluded that it is high time one agreed with the party heads about the last unclear details that failed to find their place in the so-called Declaration on Tolerance of the Republican Committee for Control Over Elections.

The assertion made by Presidency President Ivo Latin that the Croatian public is stratified according to different national, political, and party affiliations was followed by party leaders' accusations about irregularities, obstacles that they have been meeting during their campaign. Nikola Novakovic, president of one of the Croatian Peasants Party factions, complained about police in Bosnia-Hercegovina are making his party's campaign in some places in that republic difficult. Croatian Democratic Community leader Franjo Tudjman said that a lot of people are summoned to military exercises during elections, that movements of armored vehicles have been noticed in Croatia, and that there are some attempts to accuse the Croatian Democratic Community of destroying a monument in Titova Korenica. Christian Democrat Ivan Cesar complained that the militia was hindering the collecting of signatures in support of candidates. Social Democrat Antun Vujic suggests that when collecting signatures in support of candidates, one should abandon the practice of putting down the signatories' identity number [maticni broj].

Ivica Racan of the League of Communists of Croatia also made some complaints about hindrances to preelection meetings. There is one example, although this journalist does not know whether it was mentioned at the meeting: The Communists planned to hold a campaign meeting at Republican Square on Saturday. The Zagreb Center Commune denied its consent, acting in compliance with the decision that no party will be given the right to hold meetings at the central city square.

There was something else in Racan's speech that seems to be important. He insisted upon self-responsibility of both those people who have had the monopoly on power so far and those who are coming into power.

This report has been written on the basis of a Zagreb Radio report because the Croatian Presidency did not want to change its unusual practice of sessions that are both open and closed. Invitations are sent only to the editorial boards of Zagreb Radio and Television, VJESNIK, VECERNJI LIST, and TANJUG while even SLOBODNA DALMACIJA cannot have a single correspondent there.

Because interethnic division has been looming as a real danger from the beginning of the preelection campaign, it seems that a detail from the film shown at the Zagreb Television first newscast will be received by the Croatian public with a certain feeling of relief. In the break during the said meeting that lasted almost five hours, a camera caught Serbian Democratic Party leader Jovan Raskovic in a pleasant chat with Franjo Tudjman and Croatian Democratic Party leader Vlado Veselica.

A television correspondent has announced that Latin will make a statement of approval, which should convince Croatian citizens of the regularity of the campaign, the regularity of elections, and the democratic intentions of all pretenders to power. [end recording

Latin Discusses Croatian Elections

LD2803223590 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2109 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Zagreb, March 28 (TANJUG)—Genuine democracy alone can guarantee the development and stability of Croatia in the whole of Yugoslavia, President of this Yugoslav Republic Ivo Latin said here on Wednesday.

Latin discussed the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Croatia with the representatives of about thirty political parties in the republic.

He pleaded for the observance of rules their parties had adopted at the beginning of the election campaign, meaning above all that all should abide by the moral principles which stem from the democratic nature of the election process.

Recalling that the constitutional and legal conditions for holding democratic and free elections have been created in Croatia, Latin appealed against allowing anything to worsen or upset inter-ethnic relations in the republic.

The elections, scheduled for next month, will be the first multi-party elections in Croatia since the republic was established at the end of world War II.

Macedonian Assembly on 'Great Bulgarian Policy'

AU2803121790 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 23 Mar 90 p 3

[N. Batkoski report: "Provocations Coming from Sofia"]

[Excerpt] Skopje—At their joint session on 22 March, all three chambers of the Macedonian Assembly endorsed the Constitutional Law, according to which the term of the SFRY Assembly delegates will be extended until the end of the year.

Macedonian Assembly President Dr. Vulnet Starova addressed the delegates on the occasion of the escalation of the Great Bulgarian policy toward the Macedonian national minority. Among other things, he pointed out that "the latest expression of this hostile escalation is the Bulgarian Assembly's reply to the message sent to it by the SFRY Assembly concerning the recognition of the rights that the Macedonian minority in Pirin Macedonia have been denied, as well as the meeting and demonstrations Great Bulgarian nationalists held in front of the SFRY Embassy in Sofia."

The Macedonian Assembly extended its support for the principled stands contained in the SFRY Assembly message, and expressed its conviction that the SFRY Assembly will refuse the Bulgarian Assembly's declaration with indignation, and that it will take all necessary steps and activities with a view to realizing the well-known Yugoslav principled standpoints concerning the position of the Macedonian national minority in Bulgaria.

At their separate sessions, the three chambers discussed economic and financial trends in Macedonia at the beginning of this year. [passage omitted]

Muslim Community Denounces Nationalist Slogans

LD2803173690 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1146 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Sarajevo, 28 Mar (TANJUG)—The Islamic community in the SFRY today most strongly denounced the slogans that have appeared recently, first the inscription "death to Muslims" on the walls of the Bajrakli mosque in Belgrade, and then the inscription "Serbs out of Bosnia" on the yard walls of the Orthodox Church and of the Yugoslav People's Army [YPA] club in Sarajevo.

A statement has been issued by the office of the Resi-ul-Ulema of the Islamic community that says that "true religion has nothing to do with it and we never will and cannot permit its humane objectives and symbols to be abused." [remainder of item indistinct]

Questions Raised at Federal Chamber Session

LD2703120590 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0831 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 27 March (TANJUG)—There are no grounds whatsoever to claim that our embassy in Libya did not protect the interests of Yugoslav citizens in that country. This is the gist of the reply given by the Federal Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (SSIP) to the question asked by Delegate Tihomir Zivkovic, who, quoting DUGA, was interested in the Yugoslav-Libyan relations and protection of our interests in that country.

"The embassy is permanently involved in the solution of all outstanding problems that emerge in the relations between the two countries, but the results do not depend on our country alone," says the SSIP. There were cases when our citizens infringed the rules and laws applying in Libya. [passage indistinct]

Because of the treatment meted out to our citizens (confiscation of passports, etc.), our embassy protested most vehemently to the Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador M. Galovic intervened twice with the information minister. It can be said that in this case it operated in a committed and professional way. However, it turned out in every case that the basic problem was (for almost five months photo reporters were idle) that their contracts had not been vetted by appropriate Libyan authorities. "The SSIP does not wish to become involved in who is responsible for this mistake," says the reply.

On innumerable occasions, our embassy intervened with appropriate offices in Tripoli because of poor treatment, insults, and denigration of our citizens working in Libya, especially health workers in Misratah. The embassy suggested that because of the attitude displayed by the authorities toward our health workers in Misratah this cooperation should cease, but the appropriate republican authorities in our country directly involved with the selection and dispatch of personnel to Libya did not agree with that, says the reply. Replying to Delegate Zivkovic's question, the SSIP enclosed a latter by our economic representatives in Libya protesting strongly against journalist D. Lukic's report in DUGA. [passage omitted]

Yugoslavia is routinely monitoring the environmental level of radioactivity and is capable of taking measures to protect our population from ionic radiation. This is stressed in the FEC [Federal Executive Council] reply to Delegate Husein Hodzic's question on "serious news reports on cases of radiation on our country's territory". [passage indistinct]

In connection with radiation cases, last year the experts established that all the measured values had been below the maximum permitted level. During August last year, because of the suspicion about possible contamination in the Eastern Serbia area, it was established that there had been no objective reason why the public should be alarmed.

The FEC says that the biggest quantities of low- and medium-level radioactive waste matter are temporarily stored in the nuclear institutes. They are Boris Kidric in Vinca, Jozef Stefan in Lujbljana, Rudjer Boskovic in Zagreb [all nuclear institutes], and in the Krsko nuclear power plant.

However, stresses the reply, the question of the final storage of radioactive waste matter has not yet been resolved at the federal level. This question ought to have been resolved with a "social accord" that would have established whether or not it was justified to build a joint, central, final storage area for low- and medium-activity radioactive matter. So far no stand has been arrived at concerning the construction of a joint storage area. The commitments taken on with the social accord have not yet been materialized because the interests of all the republics and provinces on this are not identified, in view of the volume of radioactive matter generated on their territory. Besides, no municipality wants storage facilities to be built in its area, although, it is stressed, "ultimate storage of radioactive matter is safer, from an ecological point of view, then temporary storage." [passage omitted]

Replying to the question by Sefedin Ljusi on the population nationality structure in Kosovo in the light of the 1921 to 1981 censuses, the FEC said that the question of national membership had not been asked in prewar censuses; the information required was about religion. The reply says, to give an example, that in 1921 there were about 93,000 people in the province who professed the Orthodox religion and about 329,000 people who were Muslims. During the last census there were 209,000 Serbs and about 1,227,000 Albanians. [passage omitted]

The Yugoslav National Bank will resolve the issue of the claims by Yugoslav exporters for the goods they had exported to Iran as soon as possible, and by the end of April 1990 at the latest. This was said in the reply to Ivan Ivanov's question to the federal government in connection with the problems encountered by our exporters in their relations with the aforementioned country. [TANJUG take 8 not received]

During a recent session of the Assembly of the West European Union, it was said, among other things, that national ferment in Yugoslavia represented a potential danger not only for our country but for all of Europe. In this situation, it was said, some neighboring countries should offer military assistance to their national minorities in Yugoslavia, said Marko Martinovic, who was interested to know what stand the SSIP will take regarding this conclusion.

Recently, Dragan Malovic stressed, Albanian separatists and nationalists transmitted a five-minute contribution to Eurovision via Pristina Television about alleged mass poisoning of the children in the province. What, he asked, did the SSIP and the Federal Secretariat of Information do about this event.

Replying to these two questions, Milivoje Maksic, deputy federal secretary of foreign affairs, said that the misinformation about the alleged poisoning of the children, via our television network, had gone throughout virtually the whole world. It provided the basis for this event being misinterpreted. However, as a result of the rapid information provided by the organs of the federation and by [word indistinct] concerning this matter, and of this news report being dispatched to the world, the negative picture changed. This was also contributed to by our diplomatic missions at once providing the right information about this event in Kosovo.

Any kind of and anyone's military assistance to their national minorities in another country, stressed Maksic, would be tantamount to a crude violation of international law, infringement of sovereignty, and integrity of the country, which would then be deemed to be under attack. Under international law, this would have to be described as aggression, he said. [passage omitted]

Having pointed out that reports are circulating in the public saying that the documents on the suffering on Goli Otok are being destroyed by the appropriate services, Husein Hodzic suggested that the Federal Chamber should set in motion an initiative and propose to the SFRY Presidency that a state commission be formed that will establish the legality of the activity of state offices and services, especially of UDB [Yugoslav Security Police], the judiciary, and of military intelligence and judicial forces. Hodic also asked the FEC to say how many innocent people sentenced in Yugoslavia during the past 10 years had served their terms and to what extent had they been compensated by the state.

On the Yugoslav-Italian border, our border guards often fire on the people running across the border. By and large, they are emigrants from the African countries escaping into Italy or Austria via Yugoslavia, stressed Joze Susmelj. He therefore asked the federal government on the basis of which law are the border guards permitted to fire on the escapees.

Recently, stressed Vaso Djukanovic, some information media have been reporting a great deal on the alleged cooperation agreement signed between the Yugoslav Communist Party and the Ustasha movement. The signatories of this document, if information media are to be believed, are Mosa Pijade [prominent WW II and postwar League of Communist of Yugoslavia leader] and Dr. Mile Budak [minister in the wartime Independent Croat State]. In this connection, Djukanovic asked the FEC whether there is such a document in the state archives and, if there is, what its contents are.

Independent TV Shut Down After 1 Hour

LD2803213390 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2045 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Belgrade, March 28 (TANJUG)—A broadcast on Yugoslavia's first Independent television channel, launched on Wednesday by the Belgrade radio station Studio B, was on the air for only one hour when inspectors of the Federal Secretariat for Transport and Communications switched off the transmitter and banned further broadcasting.

The broadcast went well for only ten minutes, when the jamming started and continued to the end. Federal inspectors say Studio B did not have a relevant licence—permission from Radio-Television Belgrade, which a Serbian law defines as the "vehicle of the development of TV activity" in the republic. All journalists on the channel and their colleagues on the Belgrade daily VECERNJE NOVOSTI refused to accept the explanation and expressed indignation at the action of federal authorities.

The Radio Station Studio B had registered its new activity with the court and had obtained all the necessary licences for starting operation except the permission from Radio Television Belgrade.

Studio B's TV channel was to broadcast seven hours daily throughout the week starting from today, and its programmes were to include the news, entertainment and commercials.

Army Discusses Separation From Party

LD2803202190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1928 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Belgrade, March 28 (TANJUG)—The question of separation of the party from the army will be dealt with according to new constitutional and legal solutions, official spokesman of the Yugoslav People's Army colonel Vuk Obradovic told a press conference here on Wednesday.

The Federal Defence Secretariat will take all measures under the new constitutional and legal provisions after the constitutional (?amendments) aimed at legalizing the multiparty system and a federal law on political association have been enacted, Colonel Obradovic said.

Until that time, the Secretariat will abide strictly by the existing constitution under which League of Communists organizations are active in army units and headquarters, he stressed.

Army on Danger of Military Industry Insolvency

LD2803201890 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1905 GMT 28 Mar 90

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, March 28 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav military industry is faced with insolvency because of late payments by Yugoslav and foreign ordering parties, official spokesman for the Yugoslav People's Army, Colonel Dr. Vuk Obradovic said here today.

He pointed out that the Federal Directorate for Trade With and Reserves of Products for Special Purposes, which covers trade in weapons and army equipment, has

unsettled claims to the amount of one billion 309.2 million dollars from Iraq, Angola, Peru, Libya, Syria, Cuba, Sudan and others, with payment due for only 436 million dollars. The collection of due payments is being realized with great difficulties, Obradovic underscored.

Obradovic also specified that the financing of a new Yugoslav supersonic jet would be covered by funds from the regular army budget and will not increase the budget for the army. Obradovic pointed out that no-one from the Yugoslav Army had ever said that a decision had been made about the production of the new plane, nor was any foreign country ever mentioned as a chosen or possible partner in this project. He also said that the introduction of new transport helicopters in the Yugoslav Air Force is planned for the period from the year 1995 to 2000, and that the army will only then consider offers from Yugoslav and foreign firms and decide about ordering the aircraft which will be the best and least expensive.